

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE –23 MARCH 2004

REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE

Report by Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Committee approval to revise charges for accommodation use by community groups.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Letting Policy identifies groups and organisations which the Council wishes to support in kind through the offer of subsidised access to Council accommodation.
- 2.2 Within the Department, the Letting Policy takes account of the finite budget available to open schools outwith school hours to community groups, by the application of a Letting Plan across the Council Area.
- 2.3 The Letting Plan takes account of regular use of facilities and other facilities available locally. The Plan endeavours to balance access, rationalise use of establishments and seeks to minimise the occasions when an establishment is open for only one user group.
- 2.4 The Council supports a large number of community groups through the letting of premises. In the last financial year in excess of 14,500 lets were processed by Community Learning and Development Service for educational establishments.

3. REPORT

- 3.1 The Letting Policy in East Ayrshire presently recognises 7 separate categories of lets which differentiate the level of subsidy offered to each group or organisation. The Letting Policy, with proposed charges, is attached as Appendix 1.
- 3.2 In excess of 80% of all lets administered are in receipt of 90% subsidy on the rates charged i.e. Category 5 or over. On average these groups currently pay £3.20 per hour. It is proposed to increase this to £3.70 per hour.

- 3.3 New Rates will be

	<u>2003/2004</u>	<u>2004/5</u>
Large Unit (Games Hall etc)	£38 per hour	£44 per hour
Medium Unit (Gym, Dining Hall etc)	£32 per hour	£37 per hour

Small Unit (Classroom etc)	£27 per hour	£31 per hour
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3.4 It is proposed to implement this increase from 9 August 2004.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The Department has an income target which is directly affected by letting charges.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Nil

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 This review of charges is in line with the Council's policy of charging for services.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 It is recommended that the Education Committee:

- (i) agree implementation of the revised charges from 9 August 2004; and
- (ii) note the content of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

JM/AJ/
23 February 2004

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104, or Anne Jackson, Principal Officer, Communities Tel: (01563) 576126.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR

Category 1 - Special Commercial Events - Negotiated Rate

- Any Special Events run on a commercial basis; for example Commercial concerts or Commercial dances i.e. large scale events

Category 2 - Standard Commercial Events - Full Economic Rate (FER) plus 15%

- All commercial lets run for financial gain or profit by individuals or commercial organisations; for example Sales, exhibitions or fairs, fashion shows.

Category 3 - Fund-raising and Social Events - 50% of FER

- Community or private events run for social, not financial gain; for example weddings, birthday parties, organisation's social events
- Fund-raising events run by youth, voluntary, charitable and not for profit organisations.
- Recreational commercial lets run on a regular basis targeting young people
- Departmental use outwith the letting plan
- MP surgeries
- Councillors surgeries outwith the establishment's letting plan

Category 4 - Parents Groups fund-raising - 20% of FER

- Fund-raising events run by Parents Organisations in support of their school activities - a maximum of 2 per year per school.

Category 5 - Regular meetings - 10% of FER

Within the establishment's letting plan :

- Regular community group lets e.g. mother and toddlers, sports groups, school activities youth groups, community councils, church groups and community group committee meetings;
- Meetings of political groups (including business of political parties) and trades unions

Category 6 - Priority Areas, as identified in Regeneration Strategy - 50% of Cat 5 Charge

- all groups named above in Category 5

Category 7 - 100% Remission of rate

- departmental use of their own premises, within the letting plan
- councillors surgeries within the establishment's letting plan.

Elections

In respect of the use of Council premises for all elections, charges will be set in accordance with National Provisions in force.

Charges

Large Units - including assembly halls, main halls dining halls, games halls, theatres, lecture halls and swimming pools.

- £44 per hour

Medium Units - including small halls, gymnasias and kitchens

- £37 per hour

Small Units - including classrooms, general purpose rooms, meeting rooms, workshops, dressing rooms and staff rooms

- £31 per hour

NB Any additional janitation/cleaning costs will require to be charged separately.