

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

EDUCATION COMMITTEE - 20 MARCH 2007

REVIEW OF CHARGES IN THE LETTING POLICY FOR COMMUNITY USE

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to revise charges for accommodation used by community groups.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 Letting Charges

- 2.1.1** The Letting Policy identifies groups and organisations which the Council wishes to support in kind, through the offer of subsidised access to Council accommodation.
- 2.1.2** 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.
- 2.1.3** 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.
- 2.1.4** The Council supports a large number of community groups through the letting of premises. In the last financial year 14,494 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 90% of all lets administered are in receipt of a 90% subsidy on the rates charged i.e. Category 5 or over. On average, these groups currently pay £4.45 per hour. It is proposed to increase this to £4.60.

3.3 New Rates will be:

	2006/7	2007/8
Large Unit (Games Hall etc)	£52.50 per hour	£54.00 per hour
Medium Unit (Gym, Dining Hall etc)	£44.50 per hour	£46.00 per hour
Small Unit (Classroom etc)	£37.00 per hour	£38.00 per hour

3.4 It is proposed to implement this increase from 1 August 2007.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Nil.

5. COMMUNITY PLANNING IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Actively promoting the access to, and use of, community facilities is contained within the Promoting Community Learning Theme of East Ayrshire's Community Plan.

6. POLICY/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Lessees are advised of their responsibilities in conditions of let and guidance notes

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 It is recommended that Members of the Education Committee:

- (i) agree implementation of the revised charges from 1 August 2007; and
- (ii) otherwise note the content of the report.

Graham Short
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)

16 February 2007
GS/KG/DG

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

Nil

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support Tel: (01563) 576104, or Dot Grieve, Principal Officer Community Learning & Development Tel: (01563) 578127.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER; KAY GILMOUR

Appendix 1

Category 1	Special Commercial Events – Negotiated Rate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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%
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Lets which are outwith the establishment’s letting plan. Councillor’s surgeries outwith the establishment’s letting plan.

Category 4	Parents Groups fund-raising - 20% of FER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
	<p>Within the establishment’s letting plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular community group lets e.g. mothers and toddlers, sports groups, school activities, parent groups, youth groups, community councils, church groups and community group committee meetings; Meetings of political groups (including business of political parties) and trade unions.

Category 6	Priority Areas, as identified in Regeneration Strategy – 50% of Category 5 Charge
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All groups named in above category 5

Category 7	100% Remission of Rate
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
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Charges		
Large Units	Including – assembly halls, main halls, dining halls, games halls, theatres, lecture halls and swimming pools	£54.00 per hour
Medium Units	Including – small halls, gymnasias and kitchens.	£46.00 per hour
Small Units	Including – classrooms, general purpose rooms, meeting rooms, workshops, dressing rooms and staff rooms.	£38.00 per hour
NB – Any additional janitation/cleaning costs will require to be charged separately		