

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 4 March 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health & Community
SUBJECT: Community Department, Scale of Charges 2010/11
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the proposed admission charges for 2010/11 for the Council Libraries, The Kingsway Learning Centre, Leisure Centres, Parks and Playing Pitches, Community Centres, Bereavement Services, Registration Services and the Brindley Arts Centre.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board Sub Committee approve the charges as proposed.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 No major changes are proposed in the structure of charges for 2010/11. The levels of charges have been set as part of the council's response in setting an overall budget. Charges have generally followed the corporate guidelines for a 2% rise across the board.

3.2 Following an 11% increase in hire charges last year, The Brindley has proposed a freeze on charges for 2010/11 to encourage the present levels of usage.

3.3 Registration fees in section 1 to 4 are statutory fees. These increases have not yet been notified to the council yet. Fees for reaffirming and naming have been increased above the 2% guideline to pass on costs incurred by the service by a third party contractor.

3.4 Recreation centre charges are still in preparation and shall be presented for consideration and approval at the meeting.

3.5 Proposed charges for 2010/11 are attached as Appendix 1.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no policy implications.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

5.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

There are concessionary charges for young people under 18 to encourage access to healthy, constructive activities for young people.

5.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified.

5.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Physical activity is one of the corner stones of the Council's Health Strategy. The promotion of physical activity with the minimum financial barrier to participation is a key component.

5.4 **A Safer Halton**

Sport and recreational activities provide constructive diversionary activities for young people who may engage in anti-social behaviour or cause youth nuisance.

5.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

6.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

6.1 Income from charges is part of the council's overall budgeting strategy, new charges must therefore be implemented on 1st April 2010. Revised charges for the Brindley are implemented on 1st September 2010.

7.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 The Council's charges are structured and are at a level designed to enable the use of services by everyone in the community irrespective of individual circumstances. The new level of charges have, been set at a level which continues to facilitate this.

8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.