

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 18 March 2010
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Health & Community
SUBJECT: 2010/11 Charges for Riverview Gypsy Site
WARD(S): Riverside

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek approval for revised site charges for Riverview Gypsy site for the financial year 2010/11.

2.0 RECOMMENDED – that the proposed 3% increase to pitch rental and 16.7% increase in water charges set out in the report be approved with effect from 5th April 2010.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The table below sets out the existing weekly charges levied for pitch rental and water/sewerage for 2009/10, and the proposed charges for 2010/11. These apply on a 48 week year.

	2009/10	2010/11 (proposed)	Difference
Pitch Rental	21 @ £48.99 1 @ £57.16	21 @ £50.46 1 @ £58.88	+3%
Water & sewerage	23 @ £9.57	23 @ £11.17	+16.7%

3.2 The Council's inflation allowance for general income for the coming year is 2%. However, as last year an above inflation increase is being proposed for the pitch rental in order to move towards a balanced budget for the scheme, and an increase of 3% (1% above the Council's general inflation allowance) is therefore proposed.

3.3 Regulations prohibit the resale of water at a profit and so the charge proposed for 2010/11 is based on actual costs incurred in 2009/10. Costs significantly increased in 2009/10 totalling £12,333.85 for the last four billing periods. Dividing this sum by the number of pitches and charging weeks produces a requirement for a weekly charge of £11.17. This is 16.7% higher than the current charge.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposed charges will enable the Council to continue to properly fund the management and maintenance of the Riverview site.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

None identified.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

None identified.

6.4 A Safer Halton

None identified.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 Failure to increase the charges as outlined in the report would result in a growing financial deficit for the scheme, which would have to be met from base budget.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.0 Gypsy/Travellers are a recognised BME group, and the continued provision of a properly funded, managed and maintained site ensures the Council continues to meet the needs of this group.

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

Document

Place of inspection

Contact Officer

None