

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 5 March 2009
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community
SUBJECT: Culture & Leisure Services Scale of Charges
2009/10
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the proposed admission charges for 2009/10 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 charges as proposed be approved.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 No major changes are proposed in the structure of charges for 2009/10. 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 3% rise across the board.

3.2 The Brindley has proposed increases of 11% for commercial hirers Monday to Thursday in order to decrease the differential with weekend hire charges. It has also proposed to show the charge for rehearsals as an all-inclusive rate to reflect the staffing costs that were previously charged separately.

3.3 A paper proposing changes for the new athletics facility will be tabled at the Board's meeting on 5 March 2009.

3.4 Proposed charges for 2009/10 are attached as an appendix.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

- 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**
- 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**
- 6.3 **A Healthy Halton**
- 6.4 **A Safer Halton**
- 6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 Income from charges is part of the council's overall budgeting strategy, new charges must therefore be implemented on 1st April 2009. Revised charges for the Brindley are implemented on 1st September 2009.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 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.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.