

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 3 March 2011
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Adults & Community
SUBJECT: Leisure and Recreation Services Scale of Charges
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the proposed admission charges for 2011/12 for the Council Libraries, The Kingsway Learning Centre, Leisure Centres, Parks and Playing Pitches, Halton Athletics Track, Community Centres, Bereavement Services and the Brindley Arts Centre.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That Members of the Executive Board approve:

- 1. the charges in the attached appendices; and**
- 2. the charges and lease periods levied for Bereavement Services.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The proposed charges for 2011/12 are contained within the attached appendices.

3.2 The charges levied for Bereavement services have been reviewed and compared against adjacent Local Authorities to determine charges. The following changes are recommended: -

- a) The lease period for burial plots is reduced from 99 years to 50;
- b) New charges are introduced for researching family history;
- c) The lease period on sanctum vaults is reduced from 99 years to give an option of ten or twenty years.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 These are contained within the Appendices.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Council's charging policy operates in favour of children and young people by offering lower charges to encourage participation and the constructive use of leisure time.

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

Charges cover access to learning and training. These opportunities are offered at subsidised rates or free of charge to residents.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Active participation in cultural and leisure activities are a key pillar of the boroughs health strategy to reduce the incidence of chronic illnesses caused by poor lifestyle choices.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Constructive and diversionary activities offered in this area impact on anti social behaviour and contribute to a safer Halton.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

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. The council offers a 50% discount to those suffering financial hardship through the Halton Leisure Card scheme.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.