

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 15 March 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Physical Environment, Environmental Sustainability, Neighbourhood Leisure & Sport.
SUBJECT: Open Space Services Scale of Charges
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the proposed charges for 2012/13 for the Allotments, Cemeteries & Crematorium, Sports Pitch Hire, Educational Activities.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the charges as proposed be approved.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Proposed charges for 2012/13 are attached in appendix 1.

3.2 Allotments

3.2.1 The current charge (2011/12) for an allotment plot is £31.00. The charge includes all services (water supply, rates) and currently the provision of allotments is subsidised by Council revenue budgets. In order for the allotments to be provided without a subsidy a fee of £80.00 needs to be charged. It is proposed this charge be levied in the financial year 2012/13.

3.2.2 At present allotment charges are sent out to plot holders in December of each year (the hire of a plot runs from January to December) and they have to be paid by January 1st. Therefore plot holders will not have to pay the new costs until January 2013. There may also be scope for levying the charge in two parts (although this will increase administration costs) in order to ease the burden. It should be noted that at £80.00 the charge for an allotment plot would be equal to less than £1.54 per week a rise of only 95p per week.

3.2.3 In Halton the charge made for an allotment covers all services such as water rates, the provision of keys and the provision of skips for which many Council's make an additional charge.

3.2.4 There are a number of half plots for which a charge of only £40.00 per year would be levied. This would be less than 77p per week.

3.2.5 There are currently 400 people on the waiting list for an allotment plot.

3.3 **Cemeteries & Crematorium**

3.3.1 Increases have been applied to nearly all charges for Cemetery and Crematorium related services. The service currently operates with a subsidy from Council revenue budgets. The increased charges will reduce that subsidy. Halton's charges will still in most instances be less than those of other neighbouring local authorities.

3.4 **Outdoor Facility Charges**

3.4.1 It is proposed that the hire of an adult sports pitch be increased from £400.00 to £500.00. The cost includes use of changing facilities and even after it was increased by £100.00 would be cheaper than those in neighbouring Liverpool City. Junior Sports pitch hire is currently free and it is proposed that it remain so in 2012/13.

3.4.2 Other increased charges and new charges relate to the hire of space within public parks and reflect better current market rates.

3.4.3 It is proposed to increase the cost of an educational visit from 50p per child to £1.00 per child.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The increase contributes directly to the budget proposals for 2012/3 year with regards to reducing the overall revenue budgets.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The Council' will still be offering sports pitch hire for junior teams for free.

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

Charges to schools for education visits have been increased to £1.00 per child but this still represents very good value for money and is much less than the cost of many other educational offers away from the school environment.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Active participation sport activities, in managing an allotment plot and eating home grown fresh fruit and vegetables are a key pillar of the boroughs health strategy to reduce the incidence of chronic illnesses caused by poor lifestyle choices. The increase in charges for allotment plots and sports pitch hire does not make the facilities unaffordable.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None Identified.

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 2012.

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.

APPENDIX 1

Open Space Services

Proposed Allotment Plot Charges 2012/13

	2011/12	2012/13
	Price	Proposed
Allotment Plot	£31.00	£80.00
Allotment Plot Half (upto 125m2)	New Fee	£40.00

Notes

* Plot fee covers all costs. No additional charges are made for water or other services).

Cemeteries and Crematorium Charges 2012/13

	2011/12	2012/13
Purchase of Exclusive Right of Burial (50 year lease)		
(a) Three interments	£700.00	£790.00
(b) One or two interments	£610.00	£700.00
(c) Cremated remains grave	£380.00	£400.00

Interment fee

Monday to Thursday 10.00 a.m. – 3.00 pm

Friday – 10.00 a.m. to 2.00 pm.

(a) 1 interment - adult	£515.00	£605.00
(b) 2 interments - adult	£610.00	£700.00
(c) 3 interments - adult	£725.00	£800.00
(d) 1 interment – child (1 month-16 years)	£280.00	£300.00
(e) 2 interments – child (1 month-16 years)	£310.00	£330.00
(f) 3 interments - child (1 month-16 years)	£385.00	£410.00
(g) Stillborn child or child not exceeding 12 months	£Nil	£Nil
(h) Burial of cremated remains (Mon-Fri) (not available on Saturday)	£105.00	£150.00
Additional fee after above times	£105.00	£110.00
Saturday morning additional fee (full burials)	£+50% of interment fee	
Non-resident charge for (a)-(h) above	£+100%	

Indemnity fee	£ 55.00	£60.00
Use of Crematorium Chapel for funeral service	£ 80.00	£80.00
Transfer of Ownership of Exclusive Right of Burial	£ 55.00	£60.00
Civil Funeral Celebrant	£185.00	£185.00
Grave search – up to 10 names	£ 25.00	£25.00
Room hire for family history (1 hour)	£ 15.00	N/A (Was cemetery office which is now closed)

Memorials

New headstone	£155.00	£160.00
Additional inscription	£ 30.00	£30.00
Vase/tablet/book – not exceeding 12” x 12” x 12”	£ 40.00	£40.00
Vase/tablet/book – up to 18” x 12” x 12”	£ 60.00	£60.00
Vase/tablet/book – over 18” up to 30” x 12” x 12”	£ 75.00	£75.00
Registration of BRAMM registered masons	£no charge	
Inscription to Baby Headstone in Baby Garden	£ 50.00	£50.00

Memorial Benches (10 year lease)

5ft hardwood bench, with engraved plaque	£710.00	£710.00
Renewal of 10 year lease (new bench/plaque)	£560.00	£560.00
Additional plaque	£ 48.00	£48.00
Granite bench – Four Seasons Garden only	£1250.00	£1250.00
Renewal of 10 year lease (existing bench)	£510.00	£510.00

Crematorium charges

Monday-Thursday 9.00 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.
Friday – 9.00 am. – 2.00 p.m.

Cremation charge – adult	£500.00	£550.00
Cremation charge – child (1 year-16 years)	£220.00	£270.00
Cremation charge – child under 1 year	£ 30.00	£50.00
Cremation charge – after anatomical examination	£250.00	£300.00

Saturday morning – additional charge + 50% + 50%

Scattering of remains – with an appointment
(cremation at Widnes Crematorium) – Mon-Fri £ 35.00 £40.00

Scattering of remains when cremation has taken place
At another crematorium – Monday to Friday £130.00 £140.00

Scattering of remains not available on a Saturday

Casket – wooden	£ 58.00	£65.00
Aluminium	£ 35.00	£40.00
Small wooden (child)	£ 25.00	£30.00
Token box	£ 20.00	£20.00
Storage of cremated remains after one calendar month from date of cremation	£ 50.00	£60.00
Postage of cremated remains (by secure carrier)		£on application
Certified Extract from the Cremation Register	£ 35.00	£40.00
Civil Funeral Celebrant	£185.00	£185.00

Plaques (10 year lease)

Bronze plaque	£205.00	£210.00
Renewal for further 10 years	£ 92.00	£100.00
Granite plaque on Planter – Four Seasons/ Runcorn Cemetery Sundial	£355.00	£360.00
Renewal for further 10 years	£133.00	£150.00

Book of Remembrance

2 line entry	£ 86.00	£88.00
3 line entry	£112.00	£114.00
4 line entry	£140.00	£140.00
5 line entry	£166.00	£166.00
6 line entry	£193.00	£193.00
7 line entry	£220.00	£220.00
8 line entry	£247.00	£247.00
Flower designs	£ 70.00	£75.00
Other designs – new charge	£ 80.00	£85.00

Memorial Cards

2 line entry	£ 36.00	£36.00
3 line entry	£ 47.00	£47.00
4 line entry	£ 59.00	£59.00
5 line entry	£ 71.00	£71.00
6 line entry	£ 83.00	£83.00
7 line entry	£ 95.00	£95.00
8 line entry	£106.00	£106.00
Flower design	£ 70.00	£75.00
Other designs – new charge	£ 80.00	£85.00

Sanctum Vaults – new charges

10 year lease	£450.00	£460.00
Renewal for further 10 years	£225.00	£230.00
20 year lease	£650.00	£660.00
Renewal for further 20 years	£325.00	£330.00
(includes first placing of remains)		
Monday to Friday (not available Saturday)		
Placing 2 nd casket of remains		
Monday to Friday (not available Saturday)	£ 46.00	£50.00
Lettering, per letter	£ 3.40	£3.60
Small design	£ 64.00	£67.00
Large design	£ 86.00	£90.00
Photo tile (portrait – 1 person)	£125.00	£130.00
Photo tile (landscape – 2 persons)	£160.00	£170.00

NOTE: Charges for Book of remembrance entries, Memorial Cards, Benches, Plaques and lettering/designs to Vaults are subject to VAT

Proposed Outdoor Facility Charges

		2011/12	Proposed 2012/13
		£	£
Summer Games			
Bowling Green Hire	(Alternate weeks)	Free	Free
Winter Games			
Adult B/B Pitch Hire	(Alternate weeks)	400.00	500.00
Adult Casual Hire		90.00	120.00
Junior B/B Pitch Hire*	(Alternate weeks)	225.00	275.00
Mini Soccer B/B Hire*		155.00	200.00
Junior Casual Hire		40.00	60.00
Adult Baseball Field	(Annual)	1360.00	500.00
Junior Baseball Field*	(Annual)	680.00	750.00

Park Centres Room Hire Only**

Half Day Hire	40.00	50.00
Full Day Hire	80.00	100.00

Environmental Education

Halton Schools (per pupil)	0.50	1.00
Out of Borough Schools (per pupil)	4.00	5.00

Exhibition Unit Day Hire

In-house Service	350.00	400.00
Private Hire***	550.00	600.00

Event Equipment Hire (per day)

Pop Up Gazebo (3m x 3m)	New Charge	100.00
Walkie Talkies	New Charge	200.00
PA (Speakers, Amp, CD Player, Microphone)	New Charge	300.00

	2011/12	Proposed 2012/13
Bandstand Hire (by written request only)	New Charge	100.00
Fair and Circus Park Hire 6000 m ² ***		
Non Trading Days	0.37p per m ²	150.00 per day
Trading Days	0.72p per m ²	300.00 per day
Fair and Circus Park Hire 3000 m ² ***		
Non Trading Days	0.37p per m ²	100.00 per day
Trading Days	0.72p per m ²	200.00 per day

Large Commercial Events considered by application

Notes

* Presently provided Free of charge for junior competitive sport

** Wigg Island, Runcorn Hill, Phoenix Park, Spike Island, Pickerings Pasture, Victoria Park

*** Grass Area (Spike Island, Runcorn Town Hall Park, Heath Park)

**** Tarmac Area (Old Crosville Bus Depot Site)