

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 21 February 2008
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community
SUBJECT: Cultural & Leisure Services, Scale of Charges
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To set out the proposed admission charges for 2008/09 for the Council Libraries, The Kingsway Learning Centre, Leisure Centres, Parks and Playing Pitches, Community Centres and the Brindley Arts Centre.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:

i) **The charges as proposed be approved.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 No major changes are proposed in the structure of charges for 2008/09. The level of charges have been set as part of the council's response in setting an overall budget. Charges are therefore set at a level that should increase the revenue to the council in real terms. However the level of increase's have been judged against customer issues, other competing services and the need to continue to provide universal services which are accessible by all.

3.2 It is proposed to hold charges at The Brindley to 2007/08 levels. However it should be noted that the Performing Rights Society fees that approximate to 3% are now passed on in the booking fee and are no longer paid directly by The Brindley.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Proposed charges for 2008/09 are attached as an appendix.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no policy implications.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

Charges for all children under 18 are half of the full adult charge this

is a policy of the council to ensure access to healthy, constructive activities for young people.

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

There are no implications.

6.3 **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.

6.4 **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.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

There are no implications.

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 2008. Revised charges for the Brindley are implemented on 1st September 2008. This is as a consequence of hires of the auditorium are planned and booked well in advance.

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**

9.1 None under the meaning of the Act.