

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee
DATE: 29th March 2012
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Neighbourhood, Leisure & Sport
SUBJECT: Community Centres Service Scale of Charges
WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To set out the proposed admission charges for 2012/13 for Community Centres.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the charges in the attached appendix be approved.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The proposed charges for 2012/13 are contained within the attached appended document.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These are contained within the appended document.

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**

Community Centres provide neighbourhood bases to access adult learning and skills opportunities. There are many volunteering opportunities for local residents to participate and improve employability skills.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Active participation in community centre activities is 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**

Community centres contribute to the urban environment. In 2012 Castlefields will have a new community centre as part of the overall regeneration programme.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Income from charges is part of the council's overall budgeting strategy. Income generation is key to supporting future sustainability.

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

PROPOSED SCALE OF HIRE CHARGES 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013

COMMUNITY CENTRES Castlefields/Ditton/Grangeway/Murdishaw/Upton

1. COMMUNITY GROUPS

		Rate 11-12	Rate 12-13	£ Increase	% Increase
Hall	Per hour	£7.60	£7.75	£0.15	2%
Small Room	Per hour	£2.75	£2.80	£0.05	2%
Large Room	Per hour	£4.25	£4.35	£0.10	2%
Stage	Per hour	£2.75	£2.80	£0.05	2%
Kitchen	Per hour	£2.15	£2.20	£0.05	2%
Cafeteria	Per Hour	£4.25	£4.35	£0.10	2%

Block Bookings

Less 5 % in respect of 10 or more bookings made at any one time.

Free Lettings

Only by the agreement of the Operational Director

2. PRIVATE and COMMERCIAL GROUPS

- Kitchen Hire VAT (15%) applies
- The above charges increase by 25% AND 50% respectively and for weekend hire
- Performing Rights – 5% of the total booking charge (excluding any discount).

3. OTHER

- Sports Hall fees at Upton Community Centre for block booking and Casual will be aligned to be the same charge from £25-£29 and 12.50- 14.50 for Juniors
- Secondary spend costs such as Community Café menu prices will be agreed to reflect local and social demographics.
- The Leisure card has increased from £2-£4 this entitles holders of the card to concessions on some centre based activity sessions

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE OF APPLICANTS

1. Payment of Charges (Private and Casual Bookings)

A Non Returnable deposit of 25% of the charge shall be paid in advance and the balance must be paid prior to use.

2. Preparation and Tidying Up

The hours booked must cover the use of the Centre by organisers for any preparatory work required prior to the function and for tidying up afterwards.