

## **Board Portfolio Holder Decision**

**REPORT BY:** Chris Jones – Head of Leisure & Recreation

**SUBJECT:** Outdoor recreation:  
Review of Fees and Charges for 2011 - 2012

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1** The purpose of the report is to review the current scale of charges and to recommend changes where appropriate.

### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1** The schedule of charges was last revised in 2009. It is timely to review it in line with current budget targets and changing patterns of use.
- 2.2** Historically, there has been a disparity between the prices charged for using Outdoor Recreation facilities in both Radnorshire and Brecknockshire. It has been less expensive to use the facilities in Brecknockshire and it was decided in 2005 to address this discrepancy incrementally over a number of years rather than imposing a major hike in increases over a shorter period. Parity has almost been achieved and it is intended that the prices will eventually be comparable during the 2012/13 financial period.
- 2.3** Outdoor Recreation is a non-statutory service function and therefore there is no prescribed structure to the prices charged for using its paid facilities. However, that pricing structure should remain affordable to the user in order to sustain those facilities and benefit the community accordingly. The income generated by this pricing structure is, therefore, relatively small in comparison to the upkeep of those facilities, but, nonetheless it is considered as an important part of their provision.
- 2.4** It should also be noted that the Senior Outdoor Recreation Officer regularly provides advice and support with regards to tree maintenance, sustainability and removal if necessary. Currently there are no associated charges for this service, but is something that will be considered in the future.

### 3.0 Summary of Proposed Changes

A schedule of the revised charges is attached as an appendix to the report. It is proposed to increase the charges, as outlined, to better reflect costs and to keep in line with inflation.

Subject to approval the revised charges will take effect on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>Reason for Recommendation:</b>
It is recommended that the revised schedule of charges be adopted, to take effect from Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2011.	To increase income in line with budget target and to further parity in charges between Brecknockshire and Radnorshire.

<b>Relevant (ies):</b>	<b>Policy</b>		
<b>Within Policy:</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Within Budget:</b>	<b>Yes</b>

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