

CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.

Leisure & Recreation Services

REPORT BY: Chris Jones - Head of Leisure & Recreation

SUBJECT: Recreation Services – Fees and Charges 2011/12

REPORT FOR: Decision

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Members are requested to consider and approve the fees and charges for Recreation Services for the financial year 2011/12. These charges are proposed as maximum charges and have been calculated through consultation with the Departments Finance Team; all sport and leisure centre managers and senior leisure officers. In addition to this a price comparison study was undertaken with other Local Authorities in Wales and some neighbouring English Authorities.
- 1.2 Certain charges are above inflation but reflect the needs of the budget process and in particular the need to offset centrally imposed 'efficiency' savings. Increases in Corporate Membership charges are calculated to offset excess demand whilst still offering very real value for money - also to reduce the amount by which discounted membership activities have displaced full price activities.
- 1.3 High participation fees are rounded 'up' and lower participation activities are rounded 'down'. The overall target increase is 3%. However centre managers through their 2011/12 marketing plans will be looking at key areas of promotion thus generating additional usage and income by discounting various activities throughout the year. This has been offered in previous years and has proved successful in raising income and usage by attracting new 'users' to the centres.
- 1.4 Having reviewed Powys prices with other local authorities it is proposed that a price freeze and a reduction on certain key activities would be required for 2011/12 fees and charges.
- 1.5 Exercise classes are subject to price banding between larger and smaller sites. This and future proposals will seek to reduce the difference between these bands as it is considered that an exercise class at a Band A centre is no different to that delivered in a Band B or C Centre.

1.6 Historically favourable discounts have been extended to individual community groups at Rhayader Leisure Centre. This subsidy has been halved during the last 5 years and the Centre is no longer able to subsidise all community groups. At the June and November 2010 Consultative Committee meetings members agreed which community groups would benefit from this grant. All other community groups will be brought in line with Powys fees and charges.

1.7 The Access To Fitness Scheme (ATF) offers free swimming and gym use to all persons who are on the following benefits:-

- Job Seekers Allowance (3 months free access)
- Employment and Support Allowance (12 months free access)
- Disability Living Allowance (12 months free access)
- Or are registered disabled (12 months free access)

Having reviewed similar schemes in other local authorities it is apparent that Powys offers 100% free access whilst other authorities offer between a 50%-75% discount. In view of this it is proposed that Powys can no longer sustain this level subsidy and proposes a 50% discount on swimming and gym admissions. A separate report with further proposals of this scheme will be forwarded to portfolio holders shortly.

A full set of fees and charges are attached for consideration (appendix 1 & 2).

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
That Members consider and approve the fees and charges for Recreation Services for the financial year 2010/11.	To enable new fees and charges to be implemented from the 1 April, 2011.

Relevant Policy (ies):			
Within Policy:	Y / N	Within Budget:	Y / N

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Background Papers used to prepare Report:

Cross border evaluation of comparable Local Authority fees and charges Wales/ Borders