

Title of Report: Leisure and Sports Services Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges 2019/20	Officer Presenting: Director of Health & Community Author: Head of Community Development & Leisure
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members' approval of the Leisure and Sports Services Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges for the 2019/20 financial year.

2 Background

- 2.1 A newly aligned Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC) Leisure and Sports Service Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges was introduced on the 1 April 2015.
- 2.2 Parallel to the introduction of the new Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges in April 2015, a 12 week EQIA Consultation was completed and reviewed by a Council Charges Working Group which helped inform the subsequent Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges.
- 2.3 As part of the annual review process for the Leisure and Sports Services Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges, ongoing consultation and customer feedback is taken into consideration throughout the year, which helps inform future reviews of the policy and Schedule of Charges.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 It is acknowledged that the implementation of a consistent pricing policy and schedule of charges across all Leisure and Sports facilities is a priority to ensure equality and transparency across the service.
- 3.2 Previously historical arrangements have been acknowledged as part of the ongoing review process with the 2018/19 Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges transcending and supersede any legacy Council historical arrangements. It is now considered that all known historical pricing issues have now been addressed.

- 3.3 On 1st January 2019 Council's third party arrangements with Competition Line at Templemore Sports Complex ended. Prior to this, agreement with Competition Line on alignment of Council pricing was put in place in October 2017, however, some membership arrangements still remained inconsistent with Council's pricing policy. From 1st April 2019, all historical Competition Line pricing will be superseded by Council's pricing policy and schedule of charges to ensure continuity and consistency of pricing at all sites.
- 3.4 A new Household membership has been proposed in the 2019/20 schedule of charges to address previous concerns around family memberships (HC143/18). After a detailed review process which involved scoping and consultation with other Councils, elected Members of the Leisure and Sport Working group endorsed the proposed Household Memberships for x2 Adults and up to x3 Children with a bolt on for any additional children.
- 3.5 An alignment in the price for floodlighting at Brooke Park and Caw 3G pitches has also been proposed to ensure costs are aligned pro rata to pitch sizes.
- 3.6 Consideration was given to the alignment of charges with inflationary increases, however other than the above, it was agreed that prices would remain unchanged for 2019/20 and a key focus would be on increasing participation and usage of facilities.
- 3.7 It is important to note that a recent benchmarking exercise comparing Council prices across Northern Ireland identified that DCSDC Leisure and Sports Services prices are 46% cheaper for swimming based activities, 30% cheaper for fitness and classes based activities, and 19% cheaper for memberships.

4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications

- 4.1 Based on the proposed recommendations there are no immediate financial implications for Council. However any future reductions in the charges presented, or in the proposed discount rates may have a negative impact on the service net deficit.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members are requested to approve the Leisure and Sports Services 2019/20 Pricing Policy and Schedule of Charges in order to allow for the timely introduction from the 1st April 2019 and to ensure consistency of pricing across the service.

Background Papers

Appendix A: Leisure & Sports Services Pricing Policy

Appendix B: Schedule of Charges

Appendix C: Concession Summary

Appendix D: 2015 Equality Impact Assessment Consultation Report