

## COMMUNITY & SOCIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

22 MARCH 2016

### REPORT OF HEAD OF COMMUNITIES & NEIGHBOURHOODS

#### FEES & CHARGES- WHEELS TO WORK/ WATERFIELD LEISURE CENTRE/KING EDWARD VII LEISURE CENTRE

##### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To seek members approval on the fees and charges proposed for 2016/17 for the Wheels to Work service and the Waterfield and King Edward VII Leisure Centres.

##### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **Members approve the interim fees and charges for the W2W service and the proposals relating to the Waterfield and King Edward VII Leisure Centres.**

##### 3.0 KEY ISSUES

##### 3.1 Wheels to Work

The W2W service is managed and operated from Melton, covering the County, City and Rutland areas. The service has grown from strength to strength and is now the largest operational W2W scheme in the country with an average of 240 bikes/scooters being hired annually.

3.2 The charge for W2W has remained the same for over 4 years and is currently one of the cheapest W2W schemes in operation in the region. The interim charge proposed, as shown below, will still mean the scheme remains very competitive and still is lower than neighbouring schemes, some of which charge up to £40 per week. However, the increase will help address the reduction in funding secured for the 2016/17 scheme and move towards covering all costs associated with this service, as Appendix A outlines. Whilst it should be noted that these charges still do not achieve full cost recovery, it is expected that these charges will see additional income of £46k in 2016/17 against that budgeted for. The charge will also move to a weekly charge to enable more flexibility as requested by users.

Members are asked to note that during 2016/17 officers will be exploring the commercial potential of this scheme, which will lead to a review of all charges relating to the W2W service and as such the proposed charges are interim.

Additionally, a charge will be introduced for the kit provided to users which will be introduced in July following a request from Leicestershire County Council.

A summary of the interim charges proposed are as follows:

	Current	Proposed
Scooters 125cc	£50 per month	£20 per week
Scooters 50cc	£45 per month	£20 per week
Electric Scooters	£30 per month	£30 per month
Electric Bicycles	£10 per month	£10 per month
Kit	£0	£65 per user

In the case of 16yr olds who use the 50cc scooters to go to college on and do not have a job we will be exploring giving a student discount of £10 per month but this would only usually effect probably no more than 6 riders a year if that, and if agreed, will alter the costs only very minimally.

### 3.3 Waterfield Leisure Centre

Waterfield Leisure Centre continues to attract high number of visitors and is sustaining the number of people participating in a range of activities at the Centre since the Councils refurbishment investment.

The Management Operator, SLM, set the fees and charges for the centre, however, in line with our contract the Council need to approve the proposals.

In regards to 2016/17 the proposals are very simple and the only changes requested are:-

- Personal Trainer fee- current £22.50 to increase to £25.00
- Private Swimming Lessons- current £17.50 to increase to £18.00

### 3.4 King Edward VII Centre

Since the freehold acquisition of the King Edward VII site officers have been working with the interim management Company SLM, to increase the usage and offer at the facility. The briefing to all members in support of a report to the Extraordinary Full Council of 30 March 2016 will cover the current performance of the facility and show the significant increase in usage.

In regards to any changes to the fees and charges, there are no proposals to change any of the casual prices for activities at the centre, however, there are some proposals requested relating to the booking and membership prices, mainly to rectify the current complex charging mechanism we have inherited and to offer a dual membership benefit scheme.

This will be discussed at the end of the year review in April and a further report back to this committee in June.

## **4.0 POLICY AND CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Both services have direct links to some of the Council's Priorities around economic well-being, healthier communities and independent lives.

4.2 For W2W, the current objective of full cost recovery is not being met for this discretionary service.

## **5.0 FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATION**

5.1 All financial and resource implications have been addressed within section 3 and as shown in Appendix A. It should also be noted that the proposals outlined in the report could see additional income received of up to £46k compared to the 2016/17 original budget for the W2W scheme. However, as outlined in section 9.0 there is a risk around the funding from Northamptonshire County Council which if not received would reduce this to £6k

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS/POWERS**

6.1 No direct legal implications have been identified.

## 7.0 **COMMUNITY SAFETY**

7.1 No community safety issues have been identified in this report.

## 8.0 **EQUALITIES**

8.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken in regards to the proposals contained in this report, the charges designed to be reasonable and affordable for all users of the service.

## 9.0 **RISKS**

9.1 The risk around the proposed increasing having a detrimental impact on the services has been assessed as low having a critical impact. Officers will be closely monitoring this as any risk of losing users will mean a loss of income and less than as per the workings.

9.2 The summary shown in Appendix A assumes receipt of £40k funding from Northamptonshire County Council, if this is not received the deficit for scooters of £42k shown in Appendix A will increase to £82k and the additional income in 16/17 of £46k referred to in para 3.2 will be reduced to £6k.

## 10.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

10.1 No direct impactions have been identified.

## 11.0 **CONSULTATION**

11.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in regards to the recommendations in this report however, the proposals do take into account current usage and feedback. .

## 12.0 **WARDS AFFECTED**

12.1 All wards are affected.

Contact Officer:	H Rai
Date:	11 March 2016
Appendices:	Appendix A – Summary of W2W proposed charges and Fees.
Background Papers:	None
Reference:	X: C'tees, Council & Sub-C'tees/CSA/22-03-16/HR- W2W-WLC=KEVII fees and charges