

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES AND HOUSING ADVISORY BOARD

28 February 2017

Report of the Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services

Part 1- Public

Matters for Recommendation to Cabinet - Non-Key Decision (Decision may be taken by the Cabinet Member)

1 TONBRIDGE AND MALLING LEISURE TRUST - REVIEW OF CHARGES AND ANNUAL SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2017/18

Summary

This report brings forward proposed core charges for facilities managed on the Council's behalf by the Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust and the Trust's proposed Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017/18 for Members consideration and approval.

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Members will be aware that the Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust has been operating independently from the Council since 1 November 2013 managing the Council's main leisure facilities under contract. The facilities include Larkfield Leisure Centre, Poulton Wood Golf Centre, Tonbridge Swimming Pool, the Angel Centre, Tonbridge Farm All-Weather Area and Pitch Hire in Tonbridge.

1.2 Review of Core Charges

1.2.1 The Council's Management Agreement with the Leisure Trust states that as part of the Annual Service Planning Process the Core Pricing Schedule shall be reviewed by both parties for implementation from 1 April each year.

1.2.2 Whilst the Trust is entitled to reduce Core Prices at any time, it requires the Council's written consent to any increases in Core Prices which are in excess of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). CPI is calculated at the rate set on the 1 November preceding the annual review. For November 2016 that rate was 0.9%.

1.2.3 In determining fees and charges the Trust is required to have regard to:

- its own charitable objectives
- the needs of the local community
- the development of a balanced programme

- the Council's key priorities
- the Council's policy for pitch hire charges
- the viability of the Trust
- the prevailing market conditions
- pricing of other leisure facilities in the area

1.2.4 Taking the above into consideration the Trust has brought forward proposed Core Charges for 2017/18 as shown at **[Annex 1]**. Proposals are shown against current charges together with notes provided by the Trust.

1.2.5 In general, the proposed charges represent no or minimum increases. However, there are a small number of proposed charges which reflect the Trusts objective to reduce the differential between the Casual Rate and the benefits of Membership. Whilst these are above CPI they still remain modest in scale.

1.2.6 Members will note that the weekday concessionary charges at Poult Wood Golf Centre reflect a charging increase already considered and approved by Members of this Board last year.

1.3 Tonbridge Sportsgrounds – Proposed Pitch Hire Charges 2017/18

1.3.1 This Council has an agreed policy with Tonbridge Sports Association of amending pitch hire charges to local sports clubs by the previous October Retail Price Index and rounded to the nearest pound. The Retail Price Index for October 2016 was 2.0% and it is, therefore, proposed that charges be increased in accordance with this indexation. The Tonbridge Sports Association has been consulted and is supportive of this approach.

1.3.2 The sports pitch income is retained by the Tonbridge & Malling Leisure Trust as part of the Council's Management Agreement.

1.4 Draft Annual Service Delivery Plan 2017/18

1.4.1 In accordance with the Council's Management Agreement, the Trust has brought forward a draft Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2017/18. The draft Plan is shown at **[Annex 2]** for Members consideration and approval.

1.4.2 The draft Plan takes into consideration Agreed Service Outputs that reflect the Council's relevant Key Priorities and Aims within the Leisure and Arts Strategy. The draft Plan contains Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound (SMART) targets allied to the Council's expressed requirements.

1.4.3 The draft Plan also reflects the ambitions contained within the Trust's Five Year Business Plan.

1.4.4 This is the fourth Plan that the Leisure Trust has produced and Members will note that the current draft includes reference to three further documents these being, a Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Environmental Management Strategy and Sales and Marketing Strategy.

1.5 Legal Implications

1.5.1 The Council's Management Agreement with the Trust states that the Trust shall require the Council's prior written consent to any increases in Core Charges which are in excess of CPI.

1.5.2 It is felt that the proposed Core Charges take account of the criteria set out in the Management Agreement.

1.6 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.6.1 The Transfer to the Leisure Trust has made a significant contribution to the Council's savings. The financial performance of the Trust continues to be positive.

1.7 Risk Assessment

1.7.1 None.

1.8 Equality Impact Assessment

1.8.1 The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

1.9 Policy Considerations

1.9.1 Asset Management, Community, Healthy Lifestyles, Human Resources, Procurement, Young People

1.10 Recommendations

1.10.1 It is RECOMMENDED TO CABINET that:

- 1) the proposed Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust Core Charges outlined in **[Annex 1]** to this report be approved and implemented from 1 April 2017;
- 2) the Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust draft Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2017/18 as shown at **[Annex 2]**, be approved.
- 3) pitch hire charges at Tonbridge Sportsgrounds be increased as outlined within the report for implementation from 1 April 2017.

The Director of Street Scene & Leisure confirms that the proposals contained in the recommendation(s), if approved, will fall within the Council's Budget and Policy Framework.

Background papers:

contact: Stephen Gregg

Nil

Robert Styles

Director of Street Scene, Leisure & Technical Services