

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

LEISURE and ARTS ADVISORY BOARD

24 February 2015

**Report of the Director of Street Scene and Leisure and the
Cabinet Member for Leisure, Youth and Arts**

Part 1- Public

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

**1 LEISURE TRUST - REVIEW OF CORE CHARGES AND ANNUAL SERVICE
DELIVERY PLAN.**

Summary

The report brings forward a review of core charges for each facility managed on the Council's behalf by the Tonbridge and Malling Leisure Trust and the Trust's draft Annual Service Delivery Plan (2015/16) for 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 and Tonbridge Farm All-Weather Area.

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 prior 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 2014 that rate was 1.3%.

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 Attached at **[Annex 1]** is a schedule of the existing and proposed core charges brought forward by the Trust for Member consideration and approval. Individual percentage increases have been shown.

1.2.5 The proposed charges result in an overall average increase of 1.03%, below the current CPI rate. Highlights to note include:

- A 9.1% reduction in Adult and Family Swim and Spa Membership at both Larkfield Leisure Centre and Tonbridge Swimming Pool.
- A price freeze on Health and Fitness Memberships at Larkfield Leisure Centre and Angel Centre.
- A 9.7% reduction in the price of a Casual Leisure Pass Family Swim.
- Adult 18-Hole golf prices held for discount card holders and a 2% reduction for visitors at weekends at Poult Wood Golf Centre.
- A reduction in 9-Hole golf prices for Juniors at Poult Wood Golf Centre.
- Charges for swimming clubs held at both Tonbridge Swimming Pool and Larkfield Leisure Centre.

1.2.6 The Trust has advised that it is currently reviewing its strategic approach to encouraging greater loyalty from customers, with a drive towards membership options in favour of casual charging. Should this approach have any impact of the charging structure, proposals would be brought to a future meeting of this Board for consideration and approval.

1.3 Annual Service Delivery Plan

1.3.1 The first Annual Service Delivery Plan produced by the Trust covered a period of 17 months in line with its first two trading years, expiring on the 31 March 2015.

1.3.2 In accordance with the Council's Management Agreement, the Trust has brought forward a draft Annual Service Delivery Plan for 2015/16. The draft Plan is shown at **[Annex 2]** for Members consideration and approval.

1.3.3 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 will, therefore, contain Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound (SMART) targets allied to the Council's expressed requirements.

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

1.4 Legal Implications

1.4.1 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.

1.4.2 It is felt that the proposed Core Charges and draft Annual Service Delivery Plan take account of the criteria set out in the Management Agreement

1.5 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.5.1 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 satisfactory.

1.6 Risk Assessment

1.6.1 None

1.7 Equality Impact Assessment

1.7.1 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.

1.8 Policy Considerations

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

1.9 Recommendations

1.9.1 It is **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET** that:

- 1) the proposed Leisure Trust Core Charges outlined in **[Annex 1]** to this report be approved and implemented from 1 April 2015
- 2) the draft Leisure Trust Annual Service Delivery Plan for 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 as outlined at **[Annex 2]** be approved

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

Maria Heslop
Cabinet Member of Leisure, Youth and Arts