

**For publication**

**Environmental Services Fees and Charges 2020/21**

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Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	3 December, 2019
Cabinet portfolio:	Health and Wellbeing
Report by:	Interim Assistant Director – Commercial Services

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**1.0 Purpose of report**

1.1 To set the fees and charges for and Outdoor Leisure from 1 April 2020.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 That the fees and charges for outdoor sports and leisure services in 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.

2.2 That the interim Assistant Director – Commercial Services be authorised to vary rates for major bookings to ensure market competitiveness.

**3.0 Background**

3.1 In accordance with the Council's Budget Strategy, this is the annual review of fees and charges taking into consideration

that charges should aim to recover at least the full cost of the service except where:

- (1) There is an opportunity to maximise income: or
- (2) Members determine a reduction or subsidy should be made for a specific reason.

3.2 In preparing this report, we have had regard to The Council's Budget Strategy in that provision should be made for a minimum inflationary increase each year.

### Outdoor Recreation fees and charges

3.3 The Council provides a variety of facilities and services that contribute to promoting positive and healthy lifestyles and improving the quality of life for residents. The demand for our services has held up generally well against national and local economic difficulties. Page 3 of appendix A shows booking levels for football facilities in 2019/20.

### 3.4 **Football Pitches**

There are 30 teams using council grass pitch facilities, last season there were 31 teams plus the local youth league. The local youth league has chosen to use facilities elsewhere – where all weather facilities are available. This is largely driven by the FAs desire to see youth football played on all weather facilities, rather than being cost driven. It should be noted that where CBC have no bookings the facilities are not maintained to the same standard, and therefore are not a burden to the service. E.g. if a football pitch is not required it will not be marked out. This means that the pitches not now required by the local youth league have not been marked out, and are not costing anything to maintain beyond the basic grass cuts which are part of the parks maintenance cycle in any case. **Given that the level of use from individual teams remains constant, it**

**is recommended that the fees for football pitches are increased as shown in appendix 1.**

### 3.5 **Bowling**

There are currently four clubs using council bowling facilities. Two of these clubs have lease agreements in place. Within the lease agreements review periods are set. One is due to be reviewed in 2021 and the second in 2020. The remaining two clubs pay a seasonal fee for use of the facilities. One of these clubs is keen to move to a lease agreement which will be progressed during 2020. The fourth club wishes to remain on the current agreement at this time.

### 3.6 **Cricket**

A lease agreement is due to be signed with Chesterfield Cricket Club for use of the pitch and pavilion at Queens Park. They will also make a contribution of 23 hours of their greenkeepers time at peak season. Brearley Park hosts 1 club with 2 teams paying a seasonal pitch fee.

### 3.7 **Tennis**

Chesterfield tennis club have a seasonal contract for the use of Queen Park Tennis Courts. We are currently in discussion with the club about the future of this arrangement.

**Recommendation: That the hire of bowling greens, tennis courts and cricket pitches is reviewed in line with current lease arrangements.**

3.8 From time to time event organisers wish to make a major booking and there needs to be the flexibility to vary rates to be competitive and to attract bookings that will increase income to the Council. A decision on pricing of events of this nature is normally agreed by the Interim Assistant Director – Commercial Services.

**Recommendation: That the Interim Assistant Director – Commercial Services is authorised to make such decisions with the portfolio holders agreement.**

3.9 The council is keen to continue to meet its stated aim of encouraging people to lead healthy and active lifestyles and so there is still some level of subsidy in the provision of sports pitches, however we are actively seeking to secure lease agreements, where possible, with sports clubs and supporting them to find external funding to work towards reducing this level of subsidy. 2020/21 will continue to see a review of current leases and arrangements to ensure value for money and a consistent approach is achieved. This may affect the overall level of fees and charges during the year.

#### 4.0 **Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

3.2 The proposals have no negative impacts on any of the equalities groups.

#### 4.0 **Alternative Options to be Considered**

4.1 Members could decide not to increase fees and charges but that would increase the level of subsidy required to continue to provide sports pitches.

4.2 A larger increase could be applied to fees, however, this may result in services being either not competitive or not affordable and reduce the councils ability to encourage people to lead healthy and active lifestyles

#### 5.0 **Recommendations**

5.1 That the fees and charges for outdoor sports and leisure services in 2019/20, as detailed in Appendix 1, be approved.

5.2 That the interim Assistant Director – Commercial Services be authorised to vary rates for major bookings to ensure market competitiveness.

## 6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 To comply with the Council's Budget Strategy.

### Decision information

<b>Key decision number</b>	<b>908</b>
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Links to Council Plan priorities</b>	To provide value for money services

### Document information

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<b>Appendices to the report</b>	
Appendix A	Outdoor Leisure Facilities Fees and Charges proposal 2020-21