

Commenced: 10.02am
Concluded: 10.27am

**Leisure and Culture Cabinet Member Meeting
14 March 2013**

Present: Councillor Repton

10/12 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

11/12 Late Items

The minutes of the last meeting, held on 15 February 2013 were admitted as a late item.

12/12 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

13/12 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 February 2013

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed by the Chair.

14/12 Leisure and Culture Fees and Charges 2013-14

A report from the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods was considered. The report detailed the proposed fees and charges for 2013-14. The Director of Leisure and Culture explained that the Neighbourhoods Directorate annually reviewed its fees and charges across its range of services. This was to ensure that the fees and charges reflected the cost of delivering services and accounted for comparator rates for those services within the sector, inflationary cost increases and budget income targets.

The cabinet member noted that the proposed fees and charges for 2013/14 were contained in appendix 2 of the report. The Director of Leisure and Culture explained that in those cases where the council had discretion to set fees, the default inflationary increase relating to the 2012/13 fees and charges was 3%. Where the fee increase notably varied from inflation, the charge was agreed with the council's finance department and an explanation was included in the report. The director further explained that many of the minor increases above 3% were to allow a sensible increase to happen. All prices included value added tax where applicable.

The Director of Leisure and Culture highlighted that some areas had been subject to significant inflation above 3%, such as the car park at Markeaton, cricket and football facilities. It was explained that due to approved budget savings, increases were required to allow these savings to be made

and to allow facilities to remain open.

The Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of the Chair of the Planning, Housing and Leisure Board, questioned whether the 3% increases affected the b-you, b-active and health and wellbeing programmes. The Director of Leisure and Culture explained that through public health funding; the programmes were free to many first time customers who were encouraged to lead fitter and healthier lifestyles. The 3% increase would only affect customers who had left the programme. Those customers would then pay the standard fees. The Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods confirmed that fees and charges continued to be monitored against the wider market to ensure that they remained competitive.

The Scrutiny Officer queried whether the council had considered charging a supplementary cost for services where additional clean-up was required as a result of people using facilities, for example, where an excess of mud and litter had been created in and around the Racecourse following use of the football pitches. The Strategic Director acknowledged that this was an on-going issue requiring attention. Officers had considered a number of options, including penalising clubs but were mindful of not adversely affecting conscientious users. The cabinet member discussed the likely remit of the Neighbourhood Worker posts and whether a city ward could use its Neighbourhood Board budget to fund litter collection.

Mindful of the council's responsibilities towards public health services, the Scrutiny Officer questioned whether it was ethical to licence hot (fast) food providers located within leisure facilities. Debate ensued regarding the council's duty to encourage healthy eating choices and the need to respond to customer preference.

Resolved to approve the fees and charges for 2013-14 as set out in the updated appendix 2 of the report.

MINUTES END