

Report on	Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24		
Date of Meeting	16 th February 2023		
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing		
Contact Officer	John Howard, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager Melanie Patterson, Environmental Health Service Manager Paul Bailie, Open Spaces & Recreation Development Manager Sean Cavlin, Leisure Services Development Manager		
Is this report restricted for confidential business?			Yes
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon			No
			X

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To provide information to Members on the proposed Scale of Charges April 2023 – March 2024 for the Health, Leisure and Wellbeing service area and to seek approval to implement from 1 st April 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	The Council agreed a new organisational structure in July 2021 which resulted in a series of changes to the then Council structure. Arising from the amendments to the Council structure was the creation of a new service area fully inclusive of previous standalone services involving Environmental Health, Events, Leisure and Parks.
2.2	Previously in February 2022, Members at the Development Committee resolved to approve the report that sought to consolidate all the fees and charges across the new service area into one document in which all previous Council approvals from the creation of Mid Ulster District Council in 2015 to February 2022 relating to pricing/charging. (minute reference: D026/22)
2.3	Previously in January 2015, approval was given for the approach to deliver harmonised fees, charges and concession pricing for the commencement of the new Mid Ulster District Council in April 2015. This included approval for an approach to groupings that would be eligible for concession pricing along with the mechanism for promotional pricing (based on market conditions) – see below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>“Management have the discretion (agreed by the Director) to apply discounted pricing packages, varied times and activities in order to market less attractive facilities, low usage periods and to promote Sports Development and Health and Wellbeing initiatives.”</i>
2.4	All fees and charges that are proposed for the April 2023 – March 2024 year within the Health, Leisure & Wellbeing service area are detailed in appendix A.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members should note that all fees and charges detailed within Appendix A are reflective of previous relevant Council reports pertaining to charging and the subsequent approvals previously applied for the various service areas of Environmental Health, Leisure and Parks.

3.2	There is a variety of legislation enforced by Councils which regulates environmental controls whereby a permit, licence or registration is required to legally operate. There are a number of charges and fixed penalties whereby Council has discretion to set the level of charge or fixed penalty within the parameters of applicable legislation and previously in November 2014, Members considered and agreed the approach for the new Mid Ulster District Council forming in April 2015.
3.3	It is proposed to have a price freeze and not to apply any additional inflationary annual price increase to any charges for the period April 2023 – March 2024.
3.4	<p>Future Analysis Required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1:1 Swimming lessons, gymnastics, dance, Tobermore Golf Centre memberships and personal training within fitness suites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Decision deferred pending wider consideration of delivery methods; pricing and options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting. • Pavement Café Licensing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ In March 2017 Members agreed a zero fee for the grant, renewal or variation of a pavement café licence and that licences would be granted for an initial period of one year (minute reference: E070/17) ➤ The planned review into the fee structure and duration of pavement café licences was postponed due to the pandemic and remains outstanding. ➤ Options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting. • Room hire rates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ A cross departmental working group are currently actively reviewing room hire rates across arts & culture, leisure, parks and tourism sites. ➤ Options to be brought back to a future Development Committee meeting.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: The 2023/2024 budget setting approach for income has been based on the scale of charges approach outlined in Appendix A. The proposed scale of charges structure for 2023/2024 seeks to balance affordability with cost of providing the service; Cost recovery and maintenance of income has been considered as far as reasonably possible.</p> <p>Human: Officer time – to make staff aware of the scale of charges and to update and configure literature and computerised till systems. Officer time required to discharge the functions will remain regardless of fees (particularly for any statutory duties or enforcement activities)</p> <p>Risk Management: In line with Council policies and procedures and will continue to ensure a more robust and standardised approach to fees and charges across Environmental Health, Leisure and Parks services and facilities.</p>
4.2	<p>Screening & Impact Assessments</p> <p>Equality & Good Relations Implications: It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.</p>

	Rural Needs Implications: The proposal and recommendations tabled for consideration do not fall within an activity subject to Section 1 (1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	<p>To note the contents of this report and approve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2023/24