

Report on	Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2022/23
Date of Meeting	10 th February 2022
Reporting Officer	Kieran Gordon, Assistant Director Health, Leisure & Wellbeing
Contact Officer	John Howard, Leisure and Business 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 2022 – March 2023 for the Health, Leisure and Wellbeing service area and to seek approval to implement from 1 st April 2022.
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	This report seeks 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 present relating to pricing/charging.
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 2022 – March 2023 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	Except for a few areas (outlined below), 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 2022 – March 2023.
3.4	<p>Points for consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Pool Lifeguard Qualification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Proposal for the implementation of an amended course fee from £210 to £260 to cover the rising costs of the course materials and the administration in processing these applications. This proposed increase in course fee will seek to balance the cost of running this service and to bring Mid Ulster District Council in line with other council areas but still aiming to ensure the price remains competitive and to be perceived as value for money. <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.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	<p>Financial: The 2022/2023 budget setting approach for income has been based on the scale of charges approach outlined in Appendix A – ongoing risk associated with achievement of 2022/23 annual income targets based on the ongoing covid 19 pandemic. The proposed scale of charges structure for 2022/2023 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>Covid 19 has drastically impacted on income from all leisure and parks facilities and activities within the Council. Users had very limited ability to participate in sporting</p>

	and recreational activity at various points during 2021/2022 due to restrictions that have been placed upon services and it is not yet know if any restrictions will continue to impact into the April 2022 to March 2023 year.
	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.
	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.
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: It is not anticipated that the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity and good relations.
	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 2022/23 • The adoption of the proposals outlined in section 3.4 for the National Pool Lifeguard Qualification • Discretionary pricing flexibility to continue to be considered as and when required under the Scheme of Delegation to allow scope for sales promotions, official Council supported events, member service issues, site specific usage trends, etc
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Health, Leisure & Wellbeing Scale of Charges 2022/23