
Report To:	Education and Communities Committee	Date:	31 October 2017
Report By:	Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	Report No:	EDUCOM/89/17/MM
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	01475 714246
Subject:	Charging Structure for Team Sports		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To update the Education and Communities Committee on the position with regards to charging for pitches and halls for team sports in particular with reference to benchmarking.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report is to update the Education and Communities Committee on the outstanding remit to submit a report following a review of the charging structure for all team sport using pitches and halls operated by the Council. Section 5 of the report includes a comparison with charges from other local authorities in Scotland.
- 2.2 There are no recommended changes to pricing at this time as Members will be aware that there are currently two budget proposals which will be subject to public consultation which have a direct impact on the cost of sports facilities. The first is a proposed 10% increase in school let income and the second is the removal of the under 19 sport subsidy.
- 2.3 It should also be noted that prices charged in the School Estate have been kept in line with those charged by Inverclyde Leisure in recent years in order to keep the position across Inverclyde as simple as possible. Any changes would therefore have to be discussed with Inverclyde Leisure. Inverclyde Council cannot impose pricing changes on Inverclyde Leisure, the final decision on pricing in the IL estate is a matter for the IL Board.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Committee notes the current position in respect of charges for team sports.

Martin McNab,
Acting Head of Safer & Inclusive Communities

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Education & Communities Committee of 7 March 2017 requested that officers “Submit a report in due course following a review of the charging structure for all team sports using pitches and halls operated by the Council and Inverclyde Leisure, the report to include a comparison with the charges imposed for such provision by other local authorities”.
- 4.2 Members will be aware that charging and support for team sports are currently subject to two separate budget proposals, a 10% increase in school lets income and a proposal to remove the support for under 19 team sports. As a result, it is not possible at this time to include any recommendations on charging going forward. Section 5 of this report does however contain charging comparisons from sportscotland.
- 4.3 Members will also be aware that any changes to charges must be agreed with Inverclyde Leisure if pricing parity is to remain, particularly between the school estate and the parks and pitches run by Inverclyde Leisure. The final decision on charges in the Inverclyde Leisure estate is a matter for the Board of IL.
- 4.4 It has been suggested in the past that the comparative costs of grass and 3G pitches could be looked at. The confounding factor here would be that any changes would affect Inverclyde Council and Inverclyde Leisure differently. Almost all of the grass pitches were transferred to IL so it is not simply a matter of balancing the overall income from the combined grass and 3G estate.

5.0 COMPARATIVE COSTS

- 5.1 It is very difficult to get reliable benchmarking information from other Council areas or Leisure Trusts as the majority do not openly publish the information in an equivalent format to Inverclyde Council's Charging Book. Sportscotland does however produce an annual review of charging and comparative costs for some of the main charges which are included at Appendix 1. The full report can be found here - <https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/1796/charges-for-sports-facilities-2016-17.pdf>. The last available report is for 2016/17 so the Inverclyde comparative costs are for the same year. The reference to the estimated value of the waivers scheme however reflects the 2017-18 position as this was thought to be of more use to members. Inverclyde increases in 2017 averaged 2%.
- 5.2 The difficulty in benchmarking is demonstrated by the vast number of different categories in the sportscotland appendices. Very few LAs or Leisure Trusts have easily comparable charges. It should also be noted that a number of the charges (particularly for 3G pitch hire) in the sportscotland document are referred to as “per game”. We have checked this with sportscotland and these charges should read per hour. Grass pitches however are per game as generally grass can only be hired on this basis.
- 5.3 The actual costs in Inverclyde are further confounded by the fact that there is no additional charge for floodlights, the mean cost for floodlights elsewhere in 2016 was £14. Reductions are also available in Inverclyde for clubs in Community Sports Hubs (15%). The charges for juveniles should be read on the understanding that the current waiver scheme gives clubs a far greater level of support. Even with the reduction in 2017-18 this is still probably worth a minimum of 50% of all club hire costs.
- 5.4 Ignoring the value of the juvenile waiver and reductions for CSH member clubs, Grass Pitches in Inverclyde in 2016-17 were priced at 95% of the Scottish mean and juvenile at 92%. For 3G pitches the comparative percentages are 121% and 128%. With floodlights however these reduce to 96% and 78% respectively.
- 5.5 Comparative costs for halls are considerably lower than the Scottish average although the vast number of different categories in the sportscotland report makes an absolute comparison difficult. It should be noted that there has never been a separate juvenile rate for hall bookings in schools however this is effectively addressed in Inverclyde by a block booking rate for clubs which takes the charge below the Scottish average. At present a significant number of clubs also receive waivers support.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Leisure have been consulted on this report.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

7.1

Financial Implications:

There are no financial Implications arising from this report.

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact £000	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report £000	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Legal

7.2 None

Human Resources

7.3 None

Equalities

7.4 Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES (see attached appendix)
X	NO - This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Repopulation

7.5 None.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None.

COMPARATIVE COSTS OF MAIN TEAM HIRES									
2016/17									
Facility	User	Sample Size	Minimum (£)	Mean (£)	Maximum (£)	Inverclyde	Available Discounts Inverclyde/Comments	Inverclyde Cost after current available Reduction	Other Comments
	Adult	21	26	42.1	90	40	15% Reduction for CSH Members	£34	
Grass Football Pitch Per Game (With Changing)	Juvenile	21	13.35	21.72	45	20	U19 Clubs currently receive additional support (2017 Current value est 30-50%)	£10-£13.20	
	Adult	22	25	55.05	84.98	66.75	15% Reduction for CSH Members	£56.74	Inverclyde Charge includes floodlights (Mean cost £14 ph elsewhere)
3G Pitch Per Hour (With Changing)	Juvenile	22	13.5	35.92	60	41	U19 Clubs currently receive additional support	£20.50-£27	
	Adult	15	15.65	31.91	57.25	39	15% Reduction for CSH Members	£12-£16	Inverclyde Charge includes floodlights (Mean cost £14 ph elsewhere)
1/3 3G Pitch Per Hour (With Changing)	Juvenile	15	8.7	18.17	38.85	23.75	U19 Clubs currently receive additional support		
	Adult	15	44	73.48	99.4	46			
Large Hall Per Hour (e.g. School Assembly Hall)	Juvenile	15	25	47.86	85.5	46	Block Booking Club Rate £28		
	Adult	27	21	39.96	60.98	27			
Medium Hall Per Hour (e.g. Gym)	Juvenile	27	11.78	24.8	46	27	Block Booking Club Rate £17		
2017 Costs in Inverclyde increased by an average of 2%									