
Report To:	Policy & Resources Executive Sub-Committee	Date:	15 July 2015
Report By:	Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	Report No:	PR/134/15/AF/ MMcN
Contact Officer:	Martin McNab	Contact No:	714246
Subject:	Inverclyde Leisure Play Schemes Funding		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To request permission to deficit fund playschemes run by Inverclyde Leisure so that the cost per child per session can be capped at £3.00 for 2015.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Inverclyde Leisure (IL) runs a number of playschemes in Inverclyde the cost of which was £2.50 per session in 2014. Although 2014 charges were intended to be raised to £3.00 per session, this was not implemented. Based upon the numbers attending in 2014, IL calculated that a breakeven point for the schemes would be £4, an increase of 60% and implemented this increase for 2015. The increase has the potential to detrimentally affect service users on low incomes.
- 2.2 Although it is relatively early in the four week cycle to make a fully meaningful comparison early participation figures suggest a decline in the average number of participants in 2015 from 22 per session to 15.5. The Council has received a request for support from Inverclyde Leisure to mitigate the effects of the rise.
- 2.3 There is significant variation in costs and level of Council subsidy of playschemes and as such it would be appropriate to review this across the board as part of the 2016/18 Budget.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That approval is given to providing support to Inverclyde Leisure to cap the charge per session at £3.00.
- 3.2 That approval is given to officers to carry out a review of all subsidised playschemes and that this is reported back via the Members Budget Working Group as part of the 2016/18 Budget.

Martin McNab
Health Protection Manager

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In 2010 the staff with responsibility for managing the Council's playschemes transferred to Inverclyde Leisure. Over time the costs of running schemes has increased to the point at which IL consider that a 60% increase in the cost per session from £2.50 to £4 is necessary to cover the full costs of running the playschemes. The increase is particularly great in 2015 as the planned increase from £2.50 to £3 in 2014 was not implemented as a result of an administrative oversight by Inverclyde Leisure at the time.
- 4.2 There is currently a mixed economy of playschemes and subsidy across Inverclyde with some being supported by Grants To Voluntary Organisations (GTVO) including two IL schemes at Boglestone and Inverkip. The main cost element of the playschemes is the sessional employment costs which must be covered by charges. There has however been a gap between income and expenditure in recent years resulting in the significant rise.
- 4.3 GTVO also supports playschemes at Craigend, Branchton and by Youth Connections. In the case of Craigend this is directly in competition with the IL provision in Crawfordsburn although it does not operate 5 days per week. Charging also varies between these schemes and the activities offered.
- 4.4 Education Services additionally puts on ASN activities at Craigmarnoch. These are not however directly comparable as they run for longer and also include transport.

5.0 PROPOSALS

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Council agrees to deficit fund IL to limit the increase in playscheme charges in 2015 to limit any potential adverse effects on service users. Although it is relatively early in the four week cycle to make a fully meaningful comparison early participation figures suggest a decline in the average number of participants in 2015 from 22 per session to 15.5. The Council has received a request for support from Inverclyde Leisure to mitigate the effects of the rise.
- 5.2 The increase would be capped at £0.50 per session making the cost £3 per session. A decision on this is required as soon as possible as we are in the first week of a four week programme of playschemes.
- 5.3 As there is a significant variation in costs and level of Council subsidy of playschemes run by different organisations it is further proposed that these will be reviewed across the board in advance of 2016. Any such review will have to take into account that funding for some is based upon three year grants from GTVO.
- 5.4 It is proposed that this review is progressed as part of the 2016/18 budget and reported back via the Members Budget Working Group.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Based upon the number of attendances in 2014 (8000) the increase from £2.50 per session to £4 would have brought IL an additional £12000 of income. Capping the increase to £3 will therefore require £8000 of subsidy.
- 6.2 The final amount will however be based upon the actual number of sessions in 2015 from the point at which the £3 charge is implemented. It is not proposed to backdate the subsidy to the start of the playschemes as this would require a significant administrative task for IL.

6.3 Finance

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Year	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
Earmarked Reserves	Contingency	2015/16	£8,000		One off support pending completion of the review detailed in section 5.

7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer has been consulted on this matter and has agreed with the action proposed.
- 7.2 There are no direct staffing implications in respect of the report and as such the Head of Organisational Development, HR and Communications has not been consulted.

8.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None.