

Report to: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES

Date: 20 JANUARY 2010

Report of: DIRECTOR OF ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Report No:

Contact Officer: JON GORTON

Tele No: 4074

Report Title: Pricing Policy for Group Bookings at Leisure Centres

Non Confidential: This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Recommendations: The Executive Member is requested to approve the extension of discounts for group activities as detailed in this report and approve the uplift in the annual deficit payment to Bolton Community Leisure Trust of £26,036.

Decision:

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

SUMMARY OF REPORT:**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

To inform the Executive Member of the impact of any alterations to the current pricing structure for group bookings at leisure centre's.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Executive Member will be aware that both the Council and Serco have been approached by a lobby group under the banner “Campaign for Affordable Provision” (CAP), initially linked to the cost of indoor five a side bookings at one or two centres. They submitted a price comparison with similar activities at other facilities in the region highlighting differentials in policy/pricing structure in neighboring authorities.
- 1.2 In the short term Serco have been offering some discounted access at off peak times whilst the Council gave a commitment to review the policy in respect of discounts for “group” bookings.

2.0 CONTEXT

- 2.1 When the contract for the management of the leisure facilities was awarded to Serco by Bolton Community Leisure Trust there was a requirement that a number of Council policies/priorities be incorporated within the ongoing operation, not least the Smartcard scheme.
- 2.2 Smartcard currently offers discounts of up to 70% discount (dependant on eligibility) on the following activities:
- Badminton
 - Fitness/Weights/Gym
 - Squash
 - Swimming – Casual and lessons
 - Table Tennis
 - Tennis (indoor)
 - Equipment Hire
 - Shower/Changing only
- 2.3 The overall responsibility for setting the annual increase in fees and charges rests with the Trust unless an individual charge is proposed to be increased by more than inflation, in which case the Council’s approval is required. In respect of the charge for indoor 5 a side, this has not been increased by more than inflation since the start of the contract.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Five a side is only one activity that could be categorized as a “group” booking in a sports hall and outdoor all weather facilities offer similar activities. Thus it is not considered that this one activity can be looked at in isolation as other users would have a legitimate case that their activity should be treated in the same way.
- 3.2 During the period April 2008 to March 2009 income generated from these activities was as follows

	£
Indoor 5 a side	122,800
Hall Hire	71682
Activity Hire	19341
e.g. volleyball, skating, karate etc)	
All Weather Pitch	46537
Total	260,360

- 3.3 During the period of the contract, variations have been agreed between the Council and the Trust e.g. free swimming/over 65 activities and a financial adjustment to the deficit payment agreed between the two parties
- 3.4 The anticipated annual cost of this proposal will be £26,036 which will be funded from available resources and will be linked to the uplift in the annual deficit arrangement

4. PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Should the Executive Member wish to consider the extension of the Smartcard scheme to “group” activities it is suggested that this could operate on a pro rata basis i.e. one smartcard holder in a group of ten receives 5% discount, two would receive 10%, up to a maximum of 50% if all ten were in possession of smartcards. The anticipated annual cost of this variation to the contract would be £26,036, this figure being based on the proportion of current customers who are smartcard holders.
- 4.2 The extension of the scheme to group bookings would seem to be a natural progression in supporting the Council’s aim to reduce health inequalities and encourage more people, particularly from vulnerable groups, to adopt more active and healthy lifestyles by addressing the barrier of affordability.

5.0 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial / screening assessment has been undertaken and concludes that there will be no differential impact from this proposal, in respect of race, gender or disability.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Member is requested to approve the extension of discounts for group activities as detailed in this report and approve the uplift in the annual deficit payment to Bolton Community Leisure Trust of £26,036.

PUBLIC INTEREST TEST – CHECKLIST
Schedule 12A Local Government Act 1972

Name of Report.....

Committee

Date.....

Category of exemption applied:

Public Interest Test Questionnaire

This is not a definitive list. However, it does provide a series of questions that you should ask yourself when recommending confidentiality.

FACTORS WHICH SUPPORT DISCLOSING INFORMATION	
Will disclosure help people to understand and participate in public debate about current issues?	
Will disclosure help people to understand why the Council has taken certain decisions?	
Will disclosure give the public information about the personal probity (or otherwise) of elected members or council staff?	
Will disclosure encourage greater competition and better value for money for council taxpayers?	
Will disclosure allow individuals and companies to understand decisions made by the Council that have affected their lives?	
Is the information about factors that affect public health and public safety? (NB you should be careful if considering the release of information which might adversely affect public health and safety)	
Will disclosure reveal incompetent, illegal or unethical decision-making or examples of malpractice?	
Will disclosure reveal that such maladministration has not in fact occurred?	

FACTORS WHICH SUPPORT WITHHOLDING INFORMATION	
Will disclosure damage the Council's interests without giving the public any useful information?	
Will disclosure damage another organisation or person's interests, without giving the public any useful information?	
Will disclosure give an unfair, prejudicial or inaccurate view of a situation?	
Will disclosure prevent the effective delivery of services without giving the public useful information?	
Will disclosure put the health and safety of any group or individuals at risk?	
Is there a clear and coherent reason why the community in general would benefit more from information being withheld?	

Justification of decision
(Please provide explicit reasoning)

Other documents attached?

Name and Title: [\[Author\]](#).....

Date:.....

Appendix X to [insert report number]

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form

Title of report or proposal:

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Department:	
SIAP Unit:	
Date:	

This report is for decision and is therefore subject to an Equality Impact Assessment. The following questions have been completed to ensure that this proposal, procedure or working practice does not discriminate against any particular social group. Details of the outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment have also been included into the main body of the report.

Equality Impact Assessment Questions

1. Describe in full the aims, objectives and purpose of the proposal, including desired outcomes:
2. Who is intended to benefit from the proposal and in what way?
3. What factors/forces could contribute to or detract from these planned outcomes?

4. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the proposal?

5.a Are there concerns that the proposal could have a differential impact on race/religion/ disability/age/gender/sexuality or caring status?

5.b What evidence have you used to inform this decision?

For audit trail purposes all consultation, if any has been undertaken must be added to the corporate Consultation Database. Please contact the Consultation and Research Team to facilitate this on ext. 1083

6. Could this differential impact amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this proposal?

Please explain how you have reached this conclusion

7. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group, or for any other reason?

Please give details on how you have reached this conclusion

8.a Are there any gaps in your evidence or conclusions that make it difficult for you to quantify the potential adverse impact?

8.b If so, please explain how you will explore the proposal in greater depth?

You may wish to consider undertaking secondary data analysis, further consultation or research or investigating best practice. Please contact the Consultation Manager on ext. 1083 if you wish to undertake further consultation or research.

If you have undertaken consultation as part of the proposal, has the research been uploaded onto the Corporate Consultation Database?

Yes

No

If you are planning to undertake consultation or research as a result of this EIA, please submit a copy of this form to the Consultation Manager.

This EIA form and report has been checked and countersigned by the Departmental Equalities Officer before proceeding to Executive Member(s)

Report Officer

Name:

Signature:

Date and Contact No:

Departmental Equalities Lead Officer

Name:

Signature:

Date and Contact No:

Comments