

Committee(s):	Date(s):
Epping Forest and Commons Committee	7 March 2016
Subject: Sports and Miscellaneous Charges for The Commons	Public
Report of: The Superintendent of The Commons	For Decision
<p>Summary</p> <p>This report reviews the charges for sports facilities and miscellaneous items that are provided by The Commons Division and seeks approval for the proposed charges for 2016-17</p> <p>Recommendation(s)</p> <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the proposed charges for 2016-17 	

Main Report

Background

1. Charges for the provision of sports facilities and other items are reviewed annually. The charges for 2015-16 were approved by your Committee on 9th March 2015.
2. The City's Financial Regulations require all departments to recover full costs when setting charges to persons or external organisations, or submit reasons to the appropriate Committee when that objective is not met. It is, therefore, at the discretion of individual spending committees to determine the actual level of fees and charges relative to the services they provide, after taking into account local considerations and priorities.
3. Croydon Rugby Football Club rent space for one rugby pitch at Spring Park and Caterham Pumas Football Club rent space for a soccer pitch on Coulsdon Common. These pitches are cut at the start of the season, after which the clubs are responsible for marking and maintaining them.
4. Logs or cord wood may be produced as a by-product of land management activities. The Commons has a policy for the disposal of surplus timber arisings that allows volunteers to obtain logs free of charge and staff to get green cord or logs at a discount. Logs are not sold directly to the public.
5. The division has three rooms suitable to be offered as meeting venues to external groups. The rooms at Burnham Beeches, Merlewood and Ashtead are available to use free of charge by groups whose activities contribute to the management of the Open Spaces. All other groups are charged.

- The basic rate of VAT is added to the cost of services associated with room hire. VAT on solid fuel is charged at 5% and seasonal rental of sports pitches is zero rated subject to HMRC conditions being met.

Current Position

- The income generated from sports and miscellaneous charges provides a regular, steady income for very little outlay or risk. This amounted to £2,600 in 2015-16.
- Employees currently pay a 'donation' for green cord wood of £20.00 per ton and a VAT sum is included in this amount.
- The football pitch charge is commensurate with equivalent charges in the Croydon area. It is difficult to bench mark the charge for rugby pitches because they are not generally available for hire in the Bromley area.

Proposals

- The table below shows that the proposed charges for room hire at Burnham Beeches increase on a sliding scale up to a maximum of £275 for a full day.
- It is proposed that all other charges for 2016-17 are increased by 10%. This mirrors the increase, for licences, that your Committee recently approved on 26 January 2016 for charges at Epping Forest.
- Charges that are subject to a percentage increase are rounded to simplify transactions.
- The charges agreed for the 2015-16 financial year are currently being applied. They are shown in the following table, together with the proposed charges for next year.

Item	2015-16	2016-17
Sports Charges		
Spring Park, 1 Rugby Football Pitch (for Season)	£230.50	£255.00
Coulsdon Common, 1 Football Pitch (for season)	£248.00	£272.00

Item	2015-16 charge	2016-17 charge
Miscellaneous Charges		
Sale of split logs, per 3 tonne trailer load	£78.00	£86.00
Sale of green cord wood	£20/trailer	£22/ trailer
Room hire at Ashtead and	£29.00	£32.00

Merlewood (per hour)		
Room hire at Burnham Beeches	½ day £100- £125. Full day £200 - £250 + £3 + VAT head for refreshments	½ day £110 - £138. Full day £220 - £275 + £3.30 + VAT a head for refreshments

Corporate & Strategic Implications

14. The review of charges supports the City Corporation's Core Value 'The right services at the right price' and the associated departmental strategic aim of 'improving our use of resources through increased income generation.'

Implications

15. Increasing the charges by 10% will ensure that costs are fully recovered for the provision of sports facilities and miscellaneous items for the 2016-17 period.

Conclusion

16. It is proposed that charges for sports pitches and miscellaneous items are increased by the amounts shown in the above table.

Appendices

- None

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