



**Title of meeting:** Culture, Leisure and Economic Development Decision Meeting

**Date of meeting:** 10 February 2023

**Subject:** Parks Fees and Charges

**Report by:** Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services

**Wards affected:** All

**Key decision:** No

**Full Council decision:** No

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**1. Purpose of report**

1.1 To seek approval for annual changes to the fees and charges levied for the use of Parks facilities for the financial year 2023-2024.

**2. Recommendations**

**2.1 That the fees and charges be approved in accordance with the attached schedules (Appendix A).**

**3. Background**

3.1 In line with the Financial Rules the fees and charges have been reviewed and market rates applied where appropriate. In the majority of cases, the increase is in line with CPI.

3.2 Please refer to Appendix A 'Charges for 2023/24' for the proposed list of charges.

3.3 Site hire fees increase in line with CPI. Clarification is sought for charity events to provide assurance the money is being received by the named charities. Additionally where a commercial company is organising an event to raise money for charity and therefore paying the charity hire rate, a minimum donation to the charity equivalent to the difference between the charity hire rate and that of the commercial hire rate of the land would be expected.

3.4 The Reviving Victoria Park project funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund has reached the delivery phase with works starting on site in February 2023 and will run for four years. During this time the activities plan promotes a large number



of events of differing types and sizes, as well as playing host to other community and commercial events that will be encouraged to use the park as a venue. The project team will seek to develop a guidance document for events considered to be a 'good fit' for the park and an events pack to inform potential organisers of the amenities available, restrictions that will apply and the application process.

- 3.5 It is envisaged that charges will be closely aligned with those already shown on the schedule for other parks and open spaces, but with a range shown to cater for differing sizes and funding parameters. The addition of a category for stalls will allow assessment based on the number and size of stalls and a further category for food and drink concessions attending project events.
- 3.6 Personal and fitness trainer charges increase in line with CPI. A permit application fee is retained due to the administration involved in setting up a permit, but renewal fees have been removed to encourage annual update of relevant documentation. The deposit charge is £300 and consistent with the charge for events (where applicable).
- 3.7 Sports charges including football, cricket and rugby pitch hire charges increase in line with CPI.
- 3.8 Local benchmarking has shown the current charge to hire an adult football pitch, with use of changing rooms, is the lowest charge of any local authority in Hampshire. As work progresses on delivery of new football facilities at King George V Playing Field, the city council will work with the Football Association, Hampshire FA and Portsmouth Divisional FA to review the current charges schedule to ensure it is reflective of current demand and the quality of facilities available.
- 3.09 Great Salterns Golf Course continues to produce a net income for the council with operations having recovered well from the significant impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Golfers pay for their round either by purchasing a season ticket, or by purchasing a 'pay-and-play' green fee.
- 3.10 The course has retained an increased season ticket membership (compared to pre-pandemic), the number of rounds played has remained approximately 20% higher than the 3-year average pre-pandemic and continues to outperform the south regional figures.
- 3.11 The course offers extremely good value locally and satisfaction levels are considered to be high. Season ticket prices have remained the same for 3 years and are proposed to increase by £10 in 2023-24 (£20 senior 5 day). Green fees have also remained unchanged for 3 years and are proposed to increase by £1 in 2023-24 as shown in Schedule A.



- 3.12 Where course conditions are temporarily affected by factors outside the council's control, it is proposed that 2021/22 green fees are retained for 2022/23 as shown in Schedule A. It is proposed that Parks Manager and Course Professional may be given authority to apply a reasonable temporary reduction to green fees for the duration considered necessary.
- 3.13 Great Salterns promotes active and healthy lifestyles to all residents with a 40% discount on green fees to Leisure Card holders and concessionary rates to juniors, young adults and senior citizens.
- 3.14 Senior citizen participation at the course is high, providing both physical and social benefits, and there is opportunity to further encourage this by introducing promotions such as offering a free season ticket renewal to the course's oldest member each year.

**4. Reasons for recommendations**

- 4.1 Charges have been reviewed and adjusted, where appropriate, to reflect the rates currently being charged in the market, maximising income, but also ensuring value for money and retaining discounted rates where possible to charitable organisations and Leisure card holders.

**5. Integrated impact assessment**

- 5.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment is attached as Appendix B.

**6. Legal implications**

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report.

**7. Director of Finance's comments**

- 7.1 The fees and charges have been reviewed and increased in line with CPI in order to maximise income and remain resilient against rising costs whilst also ensuring that services remain competitive.

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Signed by:

**Stephen Baily**  
**Director of Culture, Leisure and Regulatory Services**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A - Charges for 2023/24

Appendix B - Integrated Impact Assessment

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by ..... on .....

.....  
Signed by:  
**Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure and Economic Development**