


Report of: Leisure and Cultural Services Business Manager




To: Executive Board


Date: 19 March 2007

Item No:

Title of Report : BOWLS CLUBS CHARGING STRUCTURE



Summary and Recommendations



**purpose of report:** To outline the proposed new charging cture for bowls for 2007/08


**Key decision:** Yes



Portfolio Holder: Councillor Alan Armitage


Scrutiny Responsibility: Environment/Finance

**d(s) affected:** All

Report Approved by: Emma Burson, Financial and Asset Management
hes Pownall, Legal Services; Councillor Armitage, Portfolio Holder

**Policy Framework:**
Supports the green spaces strategy

**Recommendation(s):** The Executive Board is recommended to agree to:
**the new charging structure for bowls for 2007/08**
b. A full review be undertaken on bowls provision and management by the Parks Section in consultation with the bowls clubs



**Background**

1. Previously bowls clubs have paid a differing range of charges (e.g. green rentals varying from £1623 to £3313 and pavilion rentals from £0 to £9000).

2. As a result of a complaint regarding the charging structure the City Council regularised the charging structure for the use of city council provided facilities by bowls clubs to ensure the charging structure was fair to all clubs:
 - Annual green rental - £1966 (to be reviewed on a regular basis)
 - Pavilion rent - Market rent determined by size and location of pavilion, to be reviewed as per the terms of the lease
3. For each club, the 06/07 charge and the “new” charges are shown below:

	Old rent + green charge	New green charge	New rent	New total cost	% increase	Actual increase
Barton	1311	1966	0 ¹	1966	50%	655
BBL	10966	1966	9600	11566	6%	600
Florence Pk	10186	1966	8220	10186	0%	0
W Oxford	2366	1966	400	2366	0%	0
Total	14643			26084		1255

4. All clubs with the exception of West Oxford have received grants in previous years from the City Council towards their costs although all clubs have always paid something from their own resources towards these costs.
5. The Council's community grants budget will not be making such grants in 2007/08. Officers involved in the grants evaluation process have queried the sense in using the community grants budget to offset charges being made by the council to community tenants and this is being addressed as part of the grants review. As a result the City Council agreed, in consultation with the bowls clubs, to reduce charges to the bowls clubs for the 07/08 season pending the outcome of the grants review.

Proposal

6. To ease the introduction of the new charges, it is proposed in 07/08 that clubs pay the new green charge plus 25% of the increased rent charge – see table below:

	Green Charge	25% of rent	07-08 charge	Gap between target charge and proposed 07-08 charge
Barton	1966	0	1966	0
BBL	1966	2400	4366	7200

¹ Pavilion rent paid separately via the Phoenix Sports Club

Florence Pk	1966	2055	4021
W Oxford	1966	100	2066
Total	9830	4555	12419

6165
300
13665

7. This proposal replaces any separate City Council grants being paid to individual clubs for this purpose in 2007/08.
8. All existing clubs have agreed in principle to this charging structure.
9. For future years: 2007/08 will be used by the clubs and parks to determine:
 - what level of increased payment can be reasonably expected from each club
 - the length of time that it will take each club to reach that level
 - how the gap between what the full charge and what each club can afford to pay will be bridged
 - the detailed agreements between each club and the council (in addition to the pavilion leases)

Financial Position

10. The current parks income target for bowls is £26084.00 and the expected income is £12419.00. This leaves a shortfall of £13665.00.

11. The shortfall in income will be addressed through the reduction of maintenance costs because three bowling greens (West Oxford, Florence Park and Cutteslowe) will not be maintained to the same specification because they are not required in 2007/08. One green per site will be maintained to the usual standard. This has been agreed with the clubs concerned.

Recommendations

12. The Executive Board is recommended to agree to:
 - a. The new charging structure for bowls for 2007/08.
 - b. A full review be undertaken on bowls provision and management by the Parks Section in consultation with the bowls clubs

Name and contact details of author: John Wade, Parks Manager
Tel: 01865 467255 Email: jwade@oxford.gov.uk

Background papers: None

