

To: Council

Date: 20th July 2015

Report of: Head of Community Services

Title of Report: Fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre

Summary and Recommendations

Purpose of report: To agree the process for setting the fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre

Key decision No

Executive lead member: Councillor Christine Simm

Policy Framework: Strong, Active Communities

Recommendation(s): To delegate the setting of fees and charges for Rose Hill Community Centre to the Executive Director of Community Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Communities.

Background

1. Rose Hill Community Centre is due to open in January 2016. The build is progressing well on track for the targeted completion date.
2. The new centre is a high quality replacement for the old community centre, re-providing the community rooms, the sports hall and the social areas. It incorporates a pavilion and the advice centre and also includes additional facilities such as a gym, a dedicated youth zone and health provision.
3. Agreeing fees and charges is a council function that takes place at the start of the financial year. This report requests that as the new centre opens mid-year that delegation to set the fees and charges is given to the Executive Director of Community Services in consultation with Executive Member for Community Services. The reason for urgency is that the marketing of the facility cannot start before fees and charges are set and the marketing needs to start before the next ordinary meeting of Council in September.

Proposal

4. The City Council is committed to ensuring inclusive, but also financially sustainable community facilities. To achieve this it is proposed that the centre has an affordable rate for community groups and a commercial rate for all other bookings.
5. It may also be that there are further concessionary rates available to long standing groups that use the centre and promotions will be used to encourage new bookings. An example promotion would be in the gym where we would run offers such as eleven months for the price of twelve. This is in line with how the other two directly managed community centres already operate.
6. As the centre is a large and complex facility it needs a dedicated team of staff to effectively operate it, which is why it will be managed directly by the council. The team will be supported by a reference group that is already in place and meeting regularly. The reference group includes Councillors, Officers, members of the Community Associations and representatives from other stakeholder groups. This group will also offer advice on promotions and fees and charges.

Legal Issues

7. There are no legal issues.

Financial Issues

8. The fees and charges set will need to enable the centre to meet its budgetary targets.

Environmental Impact

9. There are no environmental risks arising from this report.

Level of Risk

10. The main risk is ensuring that the fees and charges enable the centre to meet its income targets alongside delivering its community objectives.

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