

Decision under Delegated Powers

Officer Requesting the Decision

Policy & Green Spaces Development Manager, Cleansing & Open Spaces

Officer Making the Decision

Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces

Recommendation

That the proposed sports and fitness training fee is implemented for a 3 month period between 13th July 2020 until 13th October 2020 for Fitness Trainers / Organisations other than Active Charnwood and Fusion Leisure only.

Reasons

There is a need to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents can be appropriately accommodated. Whilst gyms and leisure centres remain closed, fitness sessions and other sports training can be accommodated within the Council's parks and open spaces using and adaptation to our existing event booking system for Council owned Green Spaces. The revised charge for this has been set at an appropriate fee, established through careful consideration and following guidance from the Strategic Director of Corporate Services.

Authority for Decision

Item 1 of the delegations to Heads of Service in section 8.3 of the Constitution gives authority to undertake the periodic review of fees and charges raised within their service areas and falling within the scope of the Council's Income and Charging Policy Framework. The lead members for Open Spaces & Leisure and Finance and Internal Support Services have also been consulted as part of the review process.

Decision and Date

Approved



Matthew Bradford
Head of Cleansing and Open Spaces
6th July 2020

Background

The Authority for approving fees and charges has been delegated to the Head of Cleansing & Open Spaces. The general open spaces fees and charges structure for 2020/21 has already been agreed and will remain in place.

It is recognised that there is a need to ensure that the health and wellbeing of residents can be appropriately accommodated. Gyms and leisure centres are currently closed and the Council wishes to ensure that fitness sessions and other sports training can safely be accommodated within parks and open spaces where appropriate.

A one off fee for a 3 month period between 13th July and 13th October will cover all sessions per practitioner. Bookings for training sessions will be taking using an event booking system which ensures that sports and fitness providers formally confirm that they have the appropriate processes and documentation in place (for example that they have appropriate public liability insurance, first certificates aid and risk assessments). Priority for booking sessions will be given to existing Council partners through Fusion Leisure and Active Charnwood with specific areas established within key open spaces for planned activities – Fusion Leisure and Active Charnwood will not be charged a fee.

The revised charge for this has been set at an appropriate fee, established through careful consideration and following guidance from the Strategic Director of Corporate Services.

Financial Implications

The additional income expected as a result of the price increase is estimated to be in the region of £300 and will be used to cover the cost of ensuring safe use of the sites. Comparison with other local authority charges for sports use and fitness training ensures that Charnwood Borough Council still provides a good value for money service in line with its Open Spaces Strategy.

Proposed Charges

The following charge is proposed for a 3 month period between the 13th July and 13th October 2020. This will be to issue a licence to utilise the green space for

commercial reasons to provide sports and fitness training, subject to booking specific times and availability.

The cost of a licence for a sports and fitness trainer for the 3 month period will be £30.

All other previously agreed open spaces fees and charges will remain.

Risk Management

Risk Identified	Likelihood	Impact	Risk Management Actions Planned
Resistance to price increases by clubs/customers	Possible	Low	Benchmarking with other local providers has been undertaken and the proposed charges reflect this local variance.

Key Decision

No

Background Papers

No