

AGENDA ITEM: 8c

Page nos. 54j – 54n

Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	5 January 2006
Subject	Fees and Charges for Education 1 April 2006 – 31 March 2007
Report of	Cabinet Member for Resources Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Summary	To approve fees and charges for play and after-school schemes and youth centres as detailed in the report and Appendix.

Officer Contributors	Gillian Palmer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	Not applicable
Enclosures	Appendix A – Play and Youth Charges Appendix B - Play Scheme Charges - Review Of Charges By Other Providers
For decision by	Cabinet Resources Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	N/A

Contact for further information: Gillian Palmer 0208 359 7642

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the fees and charges detailed in Appendix A of this report be approved to take effect from 1 April 2006.

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet Resources Committee 23 September 2004 Decision no 6
- i. that increases in fees and charges in line with the Financial Forward Plan be approved by Heads of Service in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, and that these increases be implemented from 1 January each year, with only limited exceptions to those being increased from 1 April.
 - ii. that increases in fees and charges above the rate assumed in the Financial Forward Plan be approved by Cabinet Resources Committee, and that these increases be implemented from 1 January each year, with only limited exceptions to those being increased from 1 April.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Increasing fees could result in a reduction in take up of play provision, thus losing income and schemes not being viable. However, increasing the number of play and after-school schemes provided in and through schools should de-centralise provision, making more available locally. The Local Authority, in partnership with local community and voluntary organisations, will also develop a number of informal and free play in the park activities for those children and families not attending full time holiday play schemes. To ensure maximum take-up of play provision the new arrangements will be promoted via the local media, schools, council web-site and the Children's Information Services (CIS).
- 4.2 Provision will continue to be made for the most vulnerable children (i.e., those for whom play provision forms part of their care package).

5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Staff are employed on temporary/fixed term contracts. Staff members will be determined by number of schemes offered.
- 5.2 The impact of increases fees and charges (expected to be in the order of £50,000) will be taken into account in the 2006/7 forward plan process

6. LEGAL ISSUES

- 6.1 None.

7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 7.1 The Council's Constitution Part 3 paragraph 3.6 authorises Cabinet Resources Committee to approve income sources and charging policies

8 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Play and after-school schemes

- 8.1 There is a mix of after-school and summer play provision available for children in Barnet provided by Local Authority, schools and the private and voluntary sector. The council currently provides free places for children who meet the following criteria:-

- referred by social worker, health professional or school
- family is in receipt of income support or income based job seekers allowance
- family is a refugee or asylum seeker unable to access benefit payments

The council additionally funds IPOP, a local voluntary sector group, to provide individual support for disabled children to attend and participate in mainstream schemes.

- 8.2 A review of current charges has shown that the rates charged for the after-school schemes are not consistent and charges for the summer schemes are below the rates charged by other providers in Barnet. Further comparisons with neighbouring boroughs indicate that these authorities do not routinely provide free places. (Appendix B) The proposed charges, set out in appendix A, harmonise charges across schemes.
- 8.3 To ensure that children most in need are not prevented from accessing holiday schemes, the council will continue to fund the additional support for disabled children (commissioned from IPOP) and to make free provision for children for whom play provision forms part of their care package

Hire of youth centres

- 8.4 The youth service operates differential rates for hiring premises. It is proposed that the differentials are maintained with charges increased by the rate of inflation and that these charges are applied consistently across all youth service premises.

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Cabinet Resources 15 December 2003.
- 9.2 Appendices containing current, proposed and comparative charges
- 9.3 Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 0208 359 7642.

APPENDIX A

**FEES AND CHARGES REVIEW – 2005/2006
EDUCATION SERVICE**

	Charges 2005/06 £	Proposed Charges 2006/07 £
Holiday Play schemes		
First Child	11.70 per day	16.00 per day or 75.00 per week
Siblings	7.40 per day	12.00 per day or 55.00 per week
Parent on Income Support	No charge	
Child assessed as "in need"	No charge	Charges as above Free provision made where this is specified as part of child's care package.
After School Clubs		
Steps	2.30	3.00
Log Cabin	2.30	3.00
St. Peter Le Poer		
First Child	4.30	3.00
Siblings	3.30	3.00
Parent on Income Support	No charge	
Child assessed as "in need"	No charge	Charges as above Free provision made where this is specified as part of child's care package.
Hire of Youth Centre Premises		
Private, commercial and occasional use Full Charge	23.00	24.00
2/3 rd price for non-commercial or community use	17.00	18.00
½ price for partner agencies or youth work providers	11.40	12.00

APPENDIX B

PLAY SCHEME CHARGES - REVIEW OF CHARGES BY OTHER PROVIDERS

Comparative Charges for Play Schemes Summer 2005		
Private, Voluntary and Community Play Schemes in Barnet		
	Standard Fee	Concessions.
AJs	£86,00pw	None
Old Barn	£16.00 per day £13.00 sibling	£13.00 (free school meals) £11.00 – Sibling
Kids Choice	£109.00pw	None
Neighbouring Local Authorities		
Harrow L.A.	£10.50 per day £50.00 pw	None
Brent L.A.	£11.00 per day £55.00 pw	None
Enfield L.A.	£15.00 per day £75.00pw	£11.00 (if paid in advance)