

**EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT MINUTES OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
CABINET MEMBER MEETING, 7 DECEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillor Smith (Cabinet Member)

Also in attendance: Councillors: Davis (Opposition Spokesperson) and Randall

PART ONE

39. FEES AND CHARGES : LIBRARIES

- 39.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities seeking approval to the levels of fees and charges for Library Services for 2011 - 12
- 39.2 The Head of the Libraries and Information Service explained that in line with the agreed Corporate Fees and Charges Policy the service was required to carry out an annual review. Only limited changes were proposed for the coming year in recognition that substantial changes had been made two years previously and to reflect the fact that the economic position of some residents of the city remained volatile. Income would be raised from a mixture of increased income from fees and charges and improved performance in the services' room hire and retail offer. A significant development during the coming year would be the introduction of downloading services, including free e-books for loan, free digital audio-book loans and down loading of music and film.
- 39.3 Councillor Davis stated that whilst it was regrettable that increases were necessary the rationale for them was understood. It was noted that whilst the level of fines for adult borrowers would increase fines were not payable by children or those who were registered disabled. Councillor Davis queried the charges made for research and it was explained that that these were comparable with those made in East and West Sussex and Surrey. A distinction was made between commercial and non-commercial service users
- 39.4 Councillor Randall acknowledged that fines were avoidable and was pleased to note that where an e mail address was held that borrowers would be notified in advance of a book becoming overdue. He enquired whether facilities were available to text borrowers and it was confirmed this facility was not available at present.
- 39.5 The Cabinet Member enquired whether fines were incurred by a particular age group and it was explained that research was underway to ascertain whether that was the case.
- 39.6 **RESOLVED** - That the Cabinet Member approves the Libraries Fees and Charges Proposals for 2011-12.

40. FEES AND CHARGES: VENUES

- 40.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities setting out the proposed fees and charges for 2011/12 for the Brighton Centre and Hove Centre.
- 40.2 It was explained that the proposed levels of fees and charges had been prepared on the basis of achieving a global increase of 2% inflation on income budgets which would automatically be included in the budget block allocation as a part of the three year budget process. The diverse and flexible offer available at both venues had resulted in a diverse array of events during the current year and were detailed in the report.
- 40.3 Councillor Randall was pleased to note the level of confirmed bookings for the Brighton Centre, considering this had probably also been facilitated by the degree of certainty surrounding its immediate future.
- 40.4 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the Cabinet Member approves the Libraries, Fees and Charges as shown in Appendices 1 (Hove Centre) and 2 (Brighton Centre) in order that they can be incorporated into the 2011/12 Revenue Budget and Venues Business Plan; and
- (2) That in addition, the Cabinet Member authorises officers to negotiate with each hirer to secure the event and maximise revenue to both the service and the economic impact to the city.

41. SEAFRONT FEES & CHARGES

- 41.1 The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Strategic Director of Communities setting out the proposed rent increase to the annual ground rent for beach huts along Hove seafront and for fishing lockers and boat licenses on both Brighton and Hove beaches. The fees and charges for passengers using the Volks Railway and proposed to be made to organizers of outdoor events were also set out.
- 41.2 Councillor Randall enquired regarding whether the "Yellow Wave" beach volleyball facility was included in these proposals. It was confirmed that it was outside the remit of the report.
- 41.3 **RESOLVED** - That the Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism agrees the fees and charges set out in the report.