

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET29 NOVEMBER 2018Report by Director of EducationEDUCATION DEPARTMENT - CHARGING FOR SERVICES 2019/20**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the charging for services exercise carried out within the Education Department and to submit for approval the proposed fees and charges for 2019/2020.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. The Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:

- Service Area 1 - Catering Service – School Meals  
To retain charges at their current level.
- Service Area 2 - Wraparound Care  
To retain charges at their current level.
- Service Area 3 – Instrumental Music Service  
To retain charges at their current level.
- Service Area 4 – Provision for Pupils with Additional Support Needs who reside out with the Authority  
Revised charge to be set for 2019/20 following consideration of 2018/19 outturn.
- Service area 5 - School Transport – Privilege Place  
To retain charges at their current level.
- Service Area 6 – Easter Schools  
To apply an inflationary uplift of 2.7%.
- Service Area 7 – Holiday Activity Programme  
Following transfer of budget, ERCL will be responsible for setting charges for 2019/20.

**IMPACT OF CHARGES FOR 2018/2019**

3. In terms of the impact of changes made to charges in 2018/19, the main points are seen as:

- Whilst no changes were made to charges for wraparound during 2018/19, it is worth noting that the full year impact of the reduction in the hourly rate to £2.25 from August 2017 saw income levels increase by around 20%. Further growth may be constrained by the availability of the additional staff required to maintain appropriate staffing ratios at all times.
- Charges for instrumental music were maintained at £300 per annum during 2018/19. However, since charges were increased to this level from August 2016, uptake from pupils who are eligible to pay has dropped by around 16%.
- As part of the package of savings approved for 2018-2021 charges for Easter Schools were doubled with a view to making this provision self-financing. Feedback from head teachers suggest that the increase in charges did not significantly affect uptake and the weekly cost of £60 or £13 per day still compares favourably to private tuition which typically costs £25-£30 per hour.
- Following consultation on budget savings for 2018-2021, funding to support the cost of residential study weekends was removed. Individual head teachers are now considering local options for study support going forward.
- No other significant impacts have been identified.

## **DEPARTMENTAL OBJECTIVES FOR CHARGING**

4. The majority of charges for Education services are set to recover part costs in recognition of the links to local and national policy priorities/legislation.

## **SERVICES REVIEWED & PROPOSED CHARGES FOR 2019/2020**

5. The services reviewed and recommendations for 2018/19 are summarised in the tables below. Further information on each service area is available for scrutiny on request.

6. Where relevant, inflationary uplifts have been applied using the corporately agreed inflation figures of 3.1% for 2018/19 and 2.7% for 2019/20.

7. A summary of the department's concessions and discounts is also available for scrutiny on request.

8. In the table below, the following codes are used to denote the Charging Classification and Policy for 2019/2020 in respect of each service area:

### Classification:

- i. To accord with policy/strategy
- ii. Market based charge
- iii. Statutory charge

### Charging Policy:

- a) Charge to recover full cost
- b) Charge to recover part cost
- c) Charge to make contribution to service revenue
- d) Charges which are nationally prescribed
- e) Charges to recover marginal cost

Service	Current Charge 2018/2019	Proposed Charge 2019/2020	Charge Classification 2019/20	Charging Policy 2019/20	Recommendation
1. Catering Service – School Meals	Primary - £2.00 Secondary - £2.20	Primary - £2.10 Secondary - £2.30	(i) To accord with policy / strategy	(b) Charge to recover part cost	To retain charges at current levels
2. Wraparound Care	£2.25 per hour	£2.25 per hour	(i) To accord with policy / strategy	(b) Charge to recover part cost	To retain charges at current levels
3. Instrumental Music Service	£300 per year which equates to an hourly rate of £20  Membership of choral groups : £65  Singing Games and Rhymes (P2 & P3) : £104 per year	£300 per year which equates to an hourly rate of £20  Membership of choral groups : £75  Singing Games and Rhymes (P2 & P3) : £130 per year	(i) To accord with policy / strategy	(b) Charge to recover part cost	To retain charges at current levels
4. Provision for Pupils with Additional Support Needs outwith the authority	Carlibar Communications Centre £15,314 per full time place; Secondary Language & Communication Unit £14,166 per full time place; Isobel Mair School £27,318 per full time place; Isobel Mair Family Centre £16,838 per full time place; Carlibar PSADU £14,166 per full time place	Revised charge to be set for 2019/2020 following consideration of 2018/2019 outturn.	(i) To accord with policy / strategy	(a) Charge to recover full cost	Revised charge to be set for 2019/2020 following consideration of 2018/2019 outturn.
5. School Transport – Privilege Place	£2.10 per day, £1.05 per single journey (plus admin fee of £2 per month)	£2.10 per day, £1.05 per single journey (plus admin fee of £2 per month)	(i) To accord with policy / strategy	(a) Charge to recover full cost	To retain charges at current level.

Service	Current Charge 2018/2019	Proposed Charge 2019/2020	Charge Classification 2019/20	Charging Policy 2019/20	Recommendation
6. Easter Schools	£60 per week or £13 per day with full concession for pupils who would qualify under the benefits system for free school meals.	£62 per week or £13.50 per day with full concession for pupils who would qualify under the benefits system for free school meals.	(i) To accord with policy / strategy	(a) Charge to recover full cost	To increase charges by an inflationary uplift of 2.7%.
7. Holiday Activity Programme	£72 per week with full concession for pupils who would qualify under the benefits system for free school meals.	Charges to be set by ERCL following transfer of budget.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Charges to be set by ERCL following transfer of budget.

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSALS

9. As has been highlighted in previous years there is the tension between maximising income and discouraging demand. With this in mind and taking into account the points made in paragraph 3 the recommendation is that the inflationary uplift should not be applied to all services.

The key implications for the services noted in this report are forecast as follows.

### Catering Services - School Meals

10. The last price increase for school meals was applied from August 2016. Since then school meals income has continued to perform well enabling the income target to be increased year on year due to increasing demand for the service and the success of the ParentPay system. Online payments now account for over 70% of school meal income collected and feedback from parents/carers has been positive in terms of ease of use and general functionality.

Benchmarking data suggests that charges in other local authorities range from £1.65 to £2.60. An increase of 5% from 2020/21 has been approved as part of the savings package agreed for 2018-2021. When implemented, this increase will bring primary meals in line with the current national average but secondary meals would be at the higher end when compared to current charges elsewhere. The most up to date benchmarking data will be considered as part of next year's charging review in advance of implementing the 5% increase.

### Wraparound Care

11. The recommendation to retain charges at the current lower rate is made both in the context of the positive impact this has had on uptake and also the wider context of the expansion of free early learning and childcare to 1140 hours which will take effect from August 2020. This legislative change will impact on both the capacity of early years establishments to offer wraparound provision and also parent/carer demand for the facility to purchase additional hours given the expansion of free provision.

### **Instrumental Music Service**

12. Significant price increases have been applied to this service over the last few years and the current charge of £300 (or £20 per hour) places East Renfrewshire as the fourth most expensive amongst those local authorities who do charge. Taking this into account and recognising that there has been a significant drop in the uptake of the service, it is not recommended that any further increase be applied at this stage. Full concessions will still apply to children and young people who would qualify under the benefits system for free school meals and no charge will be applied to secondary pupils who are studying music as an SQA course. The discount for siblings will also continue.

### **Easter Schools**

13. Given the charging policy for this service is to recover full costs, an inflationary uplift only is recommended in recognition of future cost increases such as pay awards for staff. As noted previously the significant increase applied for 2018/19 has not had detrimental impact on uptake and charges still compare favourably with charges for private tutors.

### **Holiday Activity Programme**

14. Whilst the budget for this service remained with the council following the establishment of East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure Trust (ERCL) the service is organised and promoted via ERCL. Having reviewed the current arrangements it is considered more appropriate that the budget is transferred to ERCL for 2019/20. Charges would then be reviewed by ERCL going forward.

## **FINANCIAL AND EFFICIENCY**

15. The impact of the proposed fees and charges on levels of use, and levels of income, has been taken into account in the preparation of revenue budgets for 2019/20 and where appropriate are included.

## **RELATIONSHIP TO THE CORPORATE OBJECTIVES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

16. The charges proposed for the service areas reviewed for 2019/20 impact upon the following commitments of the Corporate Statement – Your Council, Your Future

- **All children in East Renfrewshire experience a stable and secure start to their lives and are supported to succeed**
- **East Renfrewshire residents are fit and active and have the skills for learning, life and work**

## **CONSULTATION**

17. Consultation has been undertaken with various stakeholders in a number of service areas, for example:

- The Children and Young People (Scotland) Act 2014 details the requirement for local authorities to consult on early learning and childcare every 2 years. The department's most recent consultation with parents took place in July 2017 helping to also inform our Implementation Plan for the Expansion of Early Learning and Childcare to 1140 hours by 2020.
- In terms of school meals, consultation with users takes place regularly to inform menu planning, marketing and service delivery.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

18. The Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:

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Mhairi Shaw  
Director of Education  
November 2018

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