

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE – 3 MARCH 2015**

**REVIEW OF CHARGES 2015/2016**

**REPORT BY THE STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - COMMUNITIES**

**ABSTRACT:**

The purpose of this report is to recommend approval of the amended Library charges for the financial year 2015/16 for services provided under the remit of the Services to Communities (S2C).

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes that this report has been prepared on the basis that the percentage increases for charges have in the main been applied at a rate of an average 5% rounded where appropriate;
- (ii) In the light of the circumstances set out in Paragraph 3.2 of the Report, approves the pricing structures as contained within **Appendix 1**

- Appendix 1 Cultural – Webster Theatre/Libraries/Museums

(iii) Agrees that all charges are effective from 1 April 2015, or the start of any seasonal operations;

(iv) Approves a mid-term review of charges. This will be reported to committee for implementation in September/October 2015.

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN**

2.1 This report contributes to the following local outcomes contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Angus is a good place to live in, work in and visit.
- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.
- We have improved the health and wellbeing of our people and inequalities are reduced.

**3. BACKGROUND**

3.1 Angus Council at the Special Budget Meeting of 12 February 2015 approved Report No 56/15 which provided detail on the proposed charges for 2015/16.

- 3.2 In terms of Standing Order 25, a decision taken by a Committee shall not be altered or revoked within a period of six months from the date of such decision being taken. Where, however, the Convener rules that a material change of circumstances has occurred to such an extent that it is appropriate for the issue to be reconsidered, a decision may be altered or revoked within six months by a subsequent decision arising from, in this case, a recommendation to that effect, by an Officer in a formal report. It has been noted that there was an error within Appendix 1 to this report which covered the charges for Cultural – Webster Theatre/Libraries/Museums, specifically page 1 – Library charges for meeting areas, and this would constitute such a material change.

#### **4. PROPOSED CHARGES**

- 4.1 The amended charges for the Library areas have now been based on the level of charges within other facilities operated by Services to Communities.
- 4.2 The larger areas within the Libraries have been aligned to the Lesser Hall charges and the smaller areas have been aligned to the Studio charges at the Webster Memorial Theatre.
- 4.3 The current income levels have been disappointing for these areas within the Libraries and it is considered that by reducing the costs and aligning them to other charges will result in increased use and income to the Library Services.

#### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 It is estimated that the increased Cultural Services charges will generate no additional income to the Cultural account.

#### **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The issues dealt with within this report have been the subject of consideration from the equalities perspective (as required by the legislation). An [equalities impact assessment](#) has been undertaken.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

**REPORT AUTHOR: Alastair Wilson, (Interim) Head of Services to Communities**

**EMAIL DETAILS: [CommunitiesBusinessSupport@angus.gov.uk](mailto:CommunitiesBusinessSupport@angus.gov.uk)**