



Subject:	Community Summer Schemes Charges
Date:	4 th March 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac Mc Cann, Lead Officer Community Provision

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide Committee with information on the pricing of summer schemes and seek approval for reinstatement of fees for community centres.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	Members are requested to consider the re-introduction summer scheme fee's and agree one of the five options presented within the report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Background
3.2	<p>People and Communities committee of 4 February 2025 considered a report on Community Centre summer schemes. Within the report officers recommended re-instatement of charging in the amount of £1 per hour of attendance.</p> <p>Members agreed that a report would be brought to this committee providing further information on summer scheme charging to assist decision making.</p>
3.3	<p>Members are advised that City and Neighbourhood Services Departmental financial estimates include an allowance for community centre summer schemes. The 2024/2025 budget estimate contained an income target of £15,000 and an expenditure budget of £130,497. In the 2019/2020 financial year, the last year in which fees were charged, the total income amount was £15,232 comprised of registration fee of £4 and levies of £1.70 per trip. No income has been raised into the Community Centre Summer Scheme code since that financial year. Without the opportunity to support the budget through income generation, officers will be required to consider reducing summer scheme expenditure.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Benchmarking</u></p> <p>Summer schemes are provided through community, voluntary, sporting, leisure, education and private operators. The diversity of provision ranges from general schemes on site, through general schemes including trips, to specialist schemes with a focus on sports, arts, gaming etc. With charging models equally varied. For the purpose of this report, which deals specifically with Belfast City Council community centre summer schemes, officers undertook a benchmarking exercise with other councils on community weekly charges, with comparators detailed in appendix 1.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Charging options</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No cost for participation 2. £1 registration fee 3. £2 registration fee i.e. £1 per week. 4. £10 registration fee i.e. £5 per week 5. £1 per hour, with concession charge of £0.50 per hour for each additional family member 6. £1 per hour
3.6	<p><u>Income generation</u></p> <p>The table below provides a summary of projected income for each charging option if applied to the 2024 registration data.</p>

Option	Projected Income
1. No cost	£0
2. £1 registration	£841
3. £2 registration	£1,628
4. £10 registration	£8,410
5. £1 per hour, £0.50 per additional child	£24,394
6. £1 per hour	£26,540

<p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The reintroduction of charges for community centre summer schemes will support the achievement of agreed income targets and protect service delivery.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> The community centre summer schemes are designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, primarily children, and children from ethnic minority backgrounds and children with additional needs.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Appendix 1. Councils' community summer scheme charging – benchmarking table</p>