



Belfast City Council

Report to:	Development Committee
Subject:	Departmental Pricing Policy - Scale of Charges 2011/2012
Date:	15 February 2011
Reporting Officer:	John McGrillen Director of Development ext 3470
Contact Officer:	David Orr, Business Support Manager, Ext 3502

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The purpose of this report is to consider the annual review of prices for hire/rental charges at the Belfast Waterfront, Ulster Hall, St George's Market and Community Centres and to agree an implementation with effect from 1 April 2011.

2	Key Issues
2.1	<u>Belfast Waterfront / Ulster Hall</u> Following a standard 2% price increase in 2010/2011 it is recommended that Members give approval to retain existing prices for hire charges relating to all areas of the Belfast Waterfront, including Main Auditorium, Studio, Meeting Rooms, Exhibition areas including Concourse, Gallery Levels 1 and 2, Bar Levels 1 and 2 and also the Ulster Hall and, where appropriate, event services hire charges, for 2011/2012.
2.2	It is suggested that the proposed "no price increase" for 2011/2012 is necessary to keep hire fees at both venues competitive in what will inevitably be a very difficult trading environment over the next 12 months.
2.3	<u>St Georges Market</u> In January 2010 Members approved an increase in stallage and hire charges for a 2 year period from 1 April 2010 – no increase is therefore proposed. The Development Committee also approved in October 2004, a 25% incentive discount for those paying in advance. It is proposed that as a result of the high cost in administering the scheme and to simplify and introduce daily market reconciliations that the 25% payment in advance incentive discount scheme is now discontinued. The issue has been raised with traders' representatives and to date no issues have been raised

2.4	<p>Community Centres</p> <p>Following a standard 2% price increase in 2010/2011 it is proposed to increase prices in 2011/2012 by just over 2% to take account of the VAT increase from 17.5% to 20% which changed on 4 January 2011.</p> <p>The proposed schedule of prices for each of the Community Centres is detailed at Appendix 1.</p>
-----	--

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Financial</u></p> <p>The recommendations above have all been factored into the Departmental Revenue Estimates for 2011/2012 approved by Committee in January 2011.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>There are no additional human resource requirements in relation to implementation of the proposed Pricing Policy.</p>

4	Equality and Good Relations Considerations
4.1	There are no equality implications in agreeing the 2011/2012 Departmental Scale of Charges.

5	Recommendations
5.1	<p>It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and approve the following :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No increase in hire charges at Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall 2. No increase in stallage or event hire fees at St George's Market 3. The removal of the advance discount scheme at St Georges Market 4. An increase of just over 2% in Community Centre pricing as a result of the recent VAT increase 5. An effective date of 1 April 2011 for all areas

6	Decision Tracking
Further to approval the recommended actions will be completed .	
Time line: 1 April 2011 Reporting Officer: David Orr	

	Documents Attached
Appendix 1 – Community Centres Charges from 1 April 2011	