



## Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Development Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Scale of Charges 2014/2015
<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 18 February 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John McGrillen, Director of Development, Ext 3470
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	David Orr, Business Support Manager, Ext 3502

### Relevant Background Information

The purpose of this report is to consider the annual review of prices for hire/rental charges at the Belfast Waterfront, Ulster Hall, St Georges Market and Community Centres and to agree an implementation with effect from 1 April 2014.

### Key Issues

#### **Belfast Waterfront / Ulster Hall**

The current pricing schedule, applicable from 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014, was agreed by the Development Committee on 19 February 2013. A number of price changes were introduced, at that time, to ensure that the venues remained competitive.

It is recommended that charges for all spaces in the venues remain the same and therefore attracted a zero increase for 2014/2015. The proposed recommendation takes account of the difficult trading environment we are currently operating in as well as the planned development at the Waterfront Hall.

#### **Community Centres**

Prices have remained the same from 2010/2011.

It is recommended that this policy continues for another year and that no price increases should be applied for 2014/2015.

#### **St George's Market**

In January 2010 Members approved an increase, of £1 per stall, in stallage and hire charges for a 2 year period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31 March 2012. There was no price increase in 2012/2013 as a result of the difficult economic trading conditions and in 2013/2014 the Development Committee, at its meeting on 19 February 2013, agreed that as a result of disruption within the city and the negative impact on traders that hire fees for stalls would not increase in the 2013/2014 financial year.

It is recommended that the Development Committee increase hire fees for stalls by £1.00, from £13.00 to £14.00, for 2014/2015 with effect from 1 April 2014 notwithstanding consideration of the Structural Review of St Georges Market and any future investment / pricing decisions agreed by the Development Committee .

#### **Equality and Good Relations Implications**

There are no equality implications in agreeing the 2014/2015 Departmental Scale of Charges.

#### **Resource Implications**

##### Financial

The recommendations above have all been factored into the Departmental Revenue Estimates for 2014/2015.

##### Human Resources

There are no additional human resource requirements in relation to implementation of the proposed Pricing Policy.

#### **Recommendations**

That Members note the contents of the report and approve:

- 1) No increase in fees and charges for the financial year 2014-15 in Belfast Waterfront / Ulster Hall and Community Services;
- 2) The increase of £1.00 per stall, from £13.00 to £14.00, in St Georges Market;
- 3) An effective date of 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 for all areas and services.

#### **Decision Tracking**

Officer Responsible : Business Support Manager

Actions to be completed for 1 April 2014