

URGENT BUSINESS AND SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

7 November 2013

Agenda Item Number	Page	Title	Officer Responsible	Reason Not Included with Original Agenda
7.	(Pages 1 - 2)	Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/14	Democratic and Elections Officer	Revised Concessions policy

If you need any further information about the meeting please contact Dave Parry, Democratic and Elections dave.parry@cherwellandsouthnorthants.gov.uk, 01327 322365

This page is intentionally left blank

Draft Concessions Policy

A concession is defined as a reduction in the usual price of a service that is granted to specific target groups or individuals (and accompanying registered carers). A concession should not be confused with discounts available as routine marketing initiatives.

Objective

To enable groups of persons or individuals, who through personal circumstance cannot afford or need an incentive, to use a specific service provided by or on behalf of the Council at a concessionary rate below the normal service fee.

Principles

This policy shall apply to certain fees that the Council has discretion to set for services provided to individuals, and shall form the basis of contractual discussions on concessions to the fees for services contracted out through alternative providers

There shall be consistency and harmony in the way that concessions are applied across the District.

All concessions shall be simple to implement and monitor.

Car park charges and museum entry fees shall be known exceptions to the policy, and will be subject of separate detailed consideration.

This policy recognises that market forces will be the main determinant in setting the basic service charges.

Target groups and Individuals

Concessions will be targeted at specific groups of persons or individuals: these will include, *et al*, those entitled to:

- Disability Living Allowance;
- Attendance Allowance;
- Industrial Disablement Allowance;
- Incapacity Benefit;
- Blue badge parking permits.

Application

The Council will offer its concessions through the Cherwell Link Card Scheme.

Entitled individuals will be charged a £5 administrative fee for their Cherwell Link Card, which will then enable them to half-price admission for 12 months at all municipal pools and gyms in the area and ten-pin bowling in Bicester Sports Centre, and a 50% discount on young person's holiday road shows. A list of applicable venues is detailed at Annex A

Monitoring

The Cherwell Link Card Scheme will be monitored at officer level by the service manager (currently the Recreation & Health Improvement Manager) on behalf of the portfolio holder (currently the Deputy Chairman of the Executive).

Periodic monitoring by members will be undertaken through the normal overview and scrutiny process.

Cost

It is not possible at present to quantify the cost to the Council of subsidising these entrance fees, as this scheme formed part of the 25 year leisure contract negotiated in 2009, and the chosen bid did not expose any specific amount for this (which is believed to be a marginal element in any case).

However, the subsidy element might be identified during any future contract renewal negotiations, and the value for money assessed through the normal budget scrutiny process.

Authority

The Concessions Policy and the Cherwell Link Card Scheme will be approved by the full Council, on the advice of the Budget Scrutiny Committee.

ANNEX A

CONCESSIONS POLICY – APPLICABLE VENUES

The Cherwell Link Card can be used at the following venues:

Banbury

- Spiceball Leisure Centre
- North Oxfordshire Academy sports facility
- Woodgreen Leisure Centre

Bicester

- Bicester Sports Centre
- Cooper School sports facility

Kidlington

- Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre