

ANGUS COUNCIL

RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES COMMITTEE 10 October 1996

REPORT BY THE DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL SERVICES, Report No 810/96
DIRECTOR OF RECREATION SERVICES and
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

REVIEW OF LETTING CHARGES AND PROCEDURES 1997-98

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this report is to seek authority for the Education, Recreation and Cultural Services Departments to develop a unified scheme for the letting of Council premises.

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committees:

- (a) accept the proposals contained in this report;
- (b) instruct the preparation of a revised letting scheme, to commence in August 1997, which is consistent with the schemes produced by other Council Departments;
- (c) authorises a review of charges for 1997-98.

2 BACKGROUND

Individual service departments of the Council have been engaged in reviewing and altering charging practices throughout the present financial year as a consequence of the requirement to effect savings within their departmental budgets for 1996-97. This process has led to an overall increase in the cost to consumers using any of the individual service premises and, inevitably, to criticism from groups who have seen a reduction in Council subsidies. In addition, as a result of Local Government reorganisation, the Council's Recreation and Cultural Services Department have had to deal with the inherited anomalies of differing charging practices.

Early indications suggest that it is unlikely expenditure levels for the forthcoming financial year will be increased to any significant degree and there will be a requirement therefore to increase charges once again in 1997/98.

The proposed review of policy is, therefore, based on the assumption that the income earning capacity of Council premises must be increased. In consultation between service departments an attempt will be made to ensure that the prices for similar facilities are uniform wherever possible and to ensure that a consistent approach is adopted to subsidising particular user groups.

For reasons which are largely historical there are slightly different interpretations of how users are defined but at present there are three distinct categories of user groups:-

- (a) those who use Council premises on a one-off or intermittent basis and who are charged a commercial rate; this group also includes organisations such as aerobics classes which use Council premises as a place to conduct their own business;
- (b) those who use Council premises on a regular basis and who qualify for discounted rates;
- (c) those who qualify for free use of Council premises; this category appears almost exclusively in Education Department premises.

The types of premises available in Angus are detailed in appendices 1 - 3 and these fall broadly into three categories:-

- (1) Small meeting room, classroom.
- (2) Large meeting room, small hall, gymnasium, sports field.
- (3) Games hall, swimming pool, large hall, theatre.

In addressing the need to ensure the generation of income adequate to meet the running costs of any facility, it is important to recognise that facilities designed for community use can be effectively priced out of the range of certain users. It may be necessary, therefore, to introduce new scales of charges on a phased basis over a period of up to three years. It may also be necessary to address specific matters on letting arrangements and security measures arising from the recommendations in the report to be produced by the Cullen Committee of Enquiry.

3 PROPOSALS

It is recommended that the revised scheme of letting of Council premises clearly identifies from the current lists of user groups those individuals and organisations to be considered in the categories (a) - (c) above.

It is also recommended that Council staff are encouraged to adopt a corporate approach to the letting of premises by directing potential users to the most appropriate facility in their area. It makes little sense to open a school on an evening to accommodate one or two lets thus incurring staff and energy costs when an equally suitable recreational or library facility, normally open in the evenings, may be located nearby. In these other establishments facilities may be underutilised but staff costs still have to be met by the Council.

4 CONSULTATION

This report has been the subject of consultation with the Chief Executive, the Director of Law and Administration and the Director of Finance.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS

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

**EDUCATION DEPARTMENT PREMISES APPENDIX 1
BURGH SCHOOLS**

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
ARBROATH ACADEMY			
ARBROATH HIGH			
Hayshead			
Inverbrothock			
Ladyloan			
Muirfield			
St Thomas			
Timmergreens			
Warddykes			
Arbroath Acad Comm Wing			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
BRECHIN HIGH			
Andover			
Maisondieu			
Damacre Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
CARNOUSTIE HIGH			
Carlogie			
Kinloch			
Panmure Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
FORFAR			
Chapelark			
Kirkriggs			
Langlands			
Wellbrae			
Forfar Acad Comm Wing			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
WEBSTER'S HIGH			
Northmuir			
Southmuir			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
MONIFIETH HIGH			
Grange			
Seaview			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
MONTROSE ACADEMY			
Borrowfield			
Lochside			
Southesk			
St Margaret's			

RURAL SCHOOLS

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Aberlemno			
Airlie			
Arbirlot			
Auchterhouse			
Barry			
Birkhill			
Careston			
Carmyllie			
Colliston			
Cortachy			
Craigo			
Dun			
Eassie			
Edzell			
Ferryden			
Friockheim			
Glamis			
Glenisla			
Hillside			
Inverarity			
Inverkeilor			
Kilry			
Letham			
Lethnot			
Liff			
Lintrathen			
Mattocks			
Monikie			
Murroes			
Newbigging			
Newtyle			
Panbride			
Pitkenney			
St Vigean's			
Strathcathro			
Strathmartine			
Tannadice			
Tarfside			
Tealing			



Denotes availability

CULTURAL SERVICES PREMISES APPENDIX 2

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
ARBROATH			
Webster's Theatre			
Library			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
BRECHIN			
City Hall			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
CARNOUSTIE			
Library			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
EDZELL			
Inglis Memorial Hall			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
FORFAR			
Reid Hall			
Meffan Museum			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
KIRRIEMUIR			
Town Hall			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
LETHNOT			
Lethnot Hall			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
MONIFIETH			
Library			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
MONTROSE			
Town Hall			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
NEWTYLE			
Wharncliffe Hall			

KEY: *Category* (1) Seating capacity up to - 50
 (2) Seating capacity - 51 - 450
 (3) Seating capacity - 451 - 830



Denotes availability

LEISURE SERVICES PREMISES APPENDIX 3

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Forfar Swimming Pool			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Carnoustie Leisure Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Montrose Swimming Pool			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Brechin Leisure Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Lochside Leisure Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Saltire Leisure Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Arbroath Sports Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Websters Sports Centre			

	CATEGORY		
	1	2	3
Montrose Sports Centre			



Denotes availability