

Appendix 15 - Individual Proposal Equality Impact Analysis

The following proposals have been identified for further investigation in relation to their impact on people who share protected characteristics and the General Equality Duty;

No.	Description of Saving	Action
23	Increase in primary school meal prices from £2 to £2.30	Initial impact analysis completed. No further action required
25	Review of off-peak ice skating concessions	Initial impact analysis completed. No further action required

Saving Proposal 23 - Increase primary school meal prices from £2 to £2.30 over a 3 year period

Telford & Wrekin Council School Meals Service provides a healthy two course meal to over 8,000 pupils daily in Telford and Wrekin. Evidence shows that a nutritious lunch supports pupils to be healthy, improve their well-being as well as helping their academic and social development. Meals are provided to meet a range of specific medical or cultural dietary requirements at no additional cost.

Proposal

School meals currently cost £2.00 per meal per day. This price has not changed for paid meals for 3 years.

The proposal will see an increase of 10p per meal each year for the next 3 years. This equates to a 50p increase per week or £19.50 per school year for the next 3 years.

This increase is required to cover cost pressures including food and transport costs which have increased significantly over the past 12 months, a trend that is anticipated to continue. Despite managing the supply chain and purchasing product direct from producers rather than a distributor the current level of charge is not sustainable in the long term. The price increases are required to maintain the quality of the meals provided.

Impact

Any increase in daily meal costs would have a greater impact on those families with a low income or multiple children in Keystages 2, 3 and 4 who are non eligible or do not claim for Free School Meals (FSM). Families will need to increase their budget for school meals, impacting their spending elsewhere, or provide their own meals, unlike Telford & Wrekin school meals many home prepared packed lunches do not meet the government standards for a healthy and nutritious lunch.

Mitigation

The service works with schools to fully understand the needs of their pupils as each school is different and has different needs and priorities. The Catering Service will support the

school to advertise and promote the uptake of school meals and FSM for those that qualify. Support includes;

- newsletter information
- attendance at parents evenings
- parents lunches
- working with school councils to hear pupils views

The Catering Service actively works with the schools to encourage continued promotion of FSM during Keystage 1 to increase uptake of school meals beyond Keystage1

Take up of meals, including FSM, is monitored on a weekly basis by the Group Catering Manager and interventions appropriate to the school can be implemented quickly where there is any significant negative impact on meal numbers.

Implementation

Schools have already been notified of the first 10p increase for 2017/18 as part of wider discussions about prices for School Catering.

Parents will be advised by the schools of the price increase along with the new menus in the Spring Term prior to implementation in April 2017.

Agreed by Lorna Hicks, Group Catering Manager, and Stuart Davidson, Commercial Services Manager.

Saving Proposal 25 - Review of off-peak ice skating concessions (increase to half non-concessionary rate in 2017/18)

Ice Skating Charges

Off peak ice skating accounts for 9.5 hours per week over the course of the overall the programme. Off peak sessions totalled 972 admissions by concessionary TLC holders (748 adults and 224 juniors) during 2015/16. This relates to admissions and would include multiple visits from individual customers.

The current concessionary price for adult off peak skating is £1.10 with an additional charge of £1.30 skate hire. For junior entry is free of charge and a charge for skate hire of £1.25 is made. This represents a current discounted level for adults of 57.5% for customers who require the hire of skates and 80.5% for those customers who have their own skates. Juniors currently enjoy a 74% discount if they require the hire of skates and 100% discount if they have their own skates.

The general level of discount on other leisure activities for concession TLC holders is up to 40% so the current level of discount is already generous.

It is proposed that the charges for off peak public skating would be £2.85 for adults and £2.40 for juniors. It is proposed that skate hire charges are unchanged. These currently stand at £1.30 for adults and £1.25 for juniors. This would mean that the level of discount would become 26.5% for an adult who required the hire of skates and 50% discount for adults who had their own skates. Juniors would enjoy a discount of 24% if they required the

hire of skates and 50% if they had their own skates. The proposed level of discount is still in excess of that offered to standard resident TLC holders.

Benchmarking exercises have shown that other ice rinks do not offer a concessions price.

These proposals do not mean any changes for the Council's Concessions policy and have no effect on the eligibility criteria.

Whilst the proposal will reduce the opportunity for people who qualify for concessionary fees; people on low incomes, with a disability, or carers, to take part in ice skating the overall impact is anticipated to be relatively low. There are still many activities to take part in across the borough that can meet this need at no cost, or low cost, to the individuals affected. This impact is also balanced against the need to generate income to support themselves and other areas of the Council, such as Adult Social Care.

Club 2000

Club 2000 are a voluntary sector sports & leisure club for people aged 16 and over with physical and/or learning disabilities. The club use the facilities at Oakengates Leisure Centre without charge. This includes exclusive use of the Studio for 2.5 hours, the Swimming Pool for 1 hour and the Sports Hall for 1 hour. The use of facilities is every Thursday evening, during term time from 6.30 – 9pm.

This is considered peak time for a busy leisure facility and free use of the centre by the club restricts the council's ability to either hire those areas to fee paying organisations or generate income through casual use.

If the Council was to charge current hire rates for the areas occupied by Club 2000, it would expect to receive in the region of £4,000 per year. It is proposed to charge Club 2000 for the hire of facilities at a 50% discounted rate.

The overall impact of this proposal on people with disability is considered to be low. The introduction of this cost is proposed for the financial year 2018/19. This will give sufficient time to Club 2000 to adjust and incorporate this cost. They will be supported by the Council to make this transition.

Agreed by Mark Moore, Leisure Operations Manager, and Stuart Davidson, Commercial Services Manager.