



**Service Delivery
Committee**

8 July 2014

Matter for Decision

Title: **Scale of Charges for Bowls Club**

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 There are three bowls clubs in the Borough that play on bowling greens owned and managed by the Council – Oadby Bowls Club at Ellis Park, Wigston Bowls Club at Peace Memorial Park and South Wigston Bowls Club at Blaby Road Park.
- 1.2 Anyone wishing to play through these clubs needs to purchase a season ticket from the council.
- 1.3 The council makes a charge of £20.50 each time a visiting team plays a match against one of the above clubs. There has been a request from the Bowls Clubs that the visiting team fee is removed.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members decide whether the visiting team fee is removed from 1 April 2015.

3 Information

- 3.1 Wigston Bowls Club has approached the council asking why a charge is made for visiting teams. They feel that they are unable to pass this charge on to visiting clubs as, if they did, visiting teams would choose not to play Wigston and therefore there would be no matches.
- 3.2 Quarterly liaison meetings are held with Oadby and South Wigston Bowls Clubs both of whom have verbally expressed the same sentiments.
- 3.3 In order to pay the visiting team charge the clubs raise money themselves by various means; South Wigston ask those people selected to play in a match for a 'donation' of £3 each to cover the charge, Wigston and Oadby clubs raise the money through donations for refreshments that their members provide.
- 3.4 Research has been undertaken with other local authority run bowling greens and no other authority has yet been found that makes a charge for visiting teams.
- 3.5 As bowls season ticket holders have already paid for a season ticket bowls members feel that splitting the charge made for visiting teams between themselves or making donations towards the cost of visiting teams is, in effect, increasing the cost of their season ticket.
- 3.6 Income from visiting teams for 2014-15 is expected to be £1,490.
- 3.7 For information season ticket prices charged by other local authorities in Leicestershire are given below:

Council	Charge
Oadby and Wigston	£81.70 with Leisure Card £84.50 without Leisure Card
Leicester City	£78.00
Hinckley & Bosworth	£77.00 (reduced to £54 for over 60s)
Harborough	£71.30
Blaby, Melton, Charnwood, North West Leics	Bowls dealt with at parish level

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Background Papers:-

Implications	
Financial (CR)	Reduction in income of approximately £1,500 per year
Risk (CR)	CR1 – Decreasing Financial Resources
Equalities (KG)	No implications
Legal (KG)	No implications