

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	TOURISM AND LEISURE COMMITTEE	3 SEPTEMBER 2020	5
BUDGET SETTING – FEES AND CHARGES 2020/21 PRIVATE PADDLE PERMIT			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

This report gives details regarding the fees and charges associated with the proposed introduction of a Fairhaven Lake Private Paddle Permit for £60 per year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To recommend to Council the proposed fees and charges for the introduction of a private paddle permit at Fairhaven Lake as detailed within the report to be adopted within the schedule of fees and charges for 2020/21.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The proposed fees and charges for services that are within the terms of reference of each programme committee are recommended to Council for approval as part of the annual budget-setting process. There have been no previous decisions in respect of these fees and charges for 2020/21.

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

REPORT

1. The Council currently offer private use of Fairhaven Lake for any craft at a fee of £75 per annum, however use is only permitted during working hours.
2. During the covid-19 lockdown, a large increase of requests from the public have been received by officers for out of hours use of Kayaks and Stand up Paddleboards (SUP's) on Fairhaven Lake. These sports are growing in popularity and form a central focus to the new Watersports Centre which will be constructed as part of the NLHF restoration project.

3. During discussions in order to phase the return of activity at Fairhaven Lake, it has been suggested that the issue of managing the use of the lake by private Kayaks and Stand up Paddleboards needs to be addressed. Although the Council do not encourage or invite users to take part in activity out of hours, the Council do not have signage at the lake stating it is prohibited.
4. Officers have researched policies of neighbouring Local Authorities that have marine lakes for private water sports, with it becoming apparent that there are two different ways of dealing with out of hours use of the lake. The following two examples, exemplify the two different positions for out of hours use:

Wyre Council, Fleetwood Marine Lake

- Allow use with no permit or cost;
- Ask users to supply own public liability insurance;
- Signage is displayed on site stating personal use is at own risk.

Sefton Council, Southport Marine Lake

- Allow use with permit for different crafts (£58 for kayak & SUP);
- Users are issued with Health & Safety policy upon permit application;
- Signage on site states that a permit is required.

5. Another option would be to not allow out of hours use at all, however this would be very difficult to enforce.
6. Officers recommend introducing a paddle permit system that would align with the Fairhaven NLHF Restoration project activity plan.
7. Safety guidance procedures will be provided with all permits to ensure safety of users. As Kayaks and SUP's do not require vehicle access or launching from council-maintained slipways, the current annual fee of £75 is high and not in line with other authority price ranges.
8. A charge of £60 for paddle only permit is proposed.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	This report requests that Members consider the additional fees and charges for a private paddle permit and approve for adoption with the schedule of fees and charges for 2020/21.
Legal	None arising from this report
Community Safety	None arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Charlie Richards	01253 658472	August 2020

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
n/a	n/a	n/a