

BEECHE Charges

- 1.1 Reception – Yr 9 charges will rise in line with inflation; this will be renamed Reception – Yr 11 (see 1.2)
- 1.2 Charges for GCSE groups will be charged per class rather than per pupil and will be brought into line charges for Reception - Yr 11. Currently there are very few if any, bookings for this age group. Therefore as this change will result in a cost reduction for classes of more than 16 pupils, it may increase the uptake of this age category and increase the overall income for this Key Stage.
- 1.3 New ‘full day’ charges for Pre-school and special needs groups will be introduced; these and the current half day charges will be brought into line with the Reception – Yr 11 charges. Introduction of the full day charge ensures these groups have access to the same opportunities as other school groups.
- 1.4 Continuing Professional Development (CPD formally referred to as INSET); current charges for Early Years training would be deleted – these were mainly aimed at teachers with their groups – these will be absorbed into school group or CPD charges.
- 1.5 CPD courses delivered at BEECHE (for individual teachers to book on to) are to rise above the rate of inflation; it is often commented that current CPD charges are ‘very cheap’ by attendees. The high quality of these courses is not currently reflected by the charges and therefore the proposed charge is increased to be broadly in line with current Bromley Education Development Centre charges, but still remains highly competitive in comparison to private sector companies and organisations.
- 1.6 The current charge for CPD training is a flat fee which has not proved to be equitable across the range of schools purchasing the service. The proposed charges will reflect the numbers of staff attending on a sliding scale. This will ensure small schools/groups are not priced out of the market while still reflecting the additional work involved in delivering to larger groups of teaching professionals. The proposed charges are per person, with a minimum booking of 6 participants per class.
- 1.7 Forest School charges will be brought in line with proposed Reception - Yr 11 charges. Originally Forest School was introduced to increase uptake during ‘off peak’ times, however this is now requested and delivered year round therefore peak time charges are to be introduced to reflect this. New charges will be brought in for set up and delivery of Forest School in individual School grounds providing a bespoke service, and this will also be in line with the Reception – Yr 11 charges with the additional charge of reasonable travel costs for the Environmental Education Officers. Ideally Forest School would be offered to pupils

throughout the year. As an incentive for this, schools which book year round Forest School sessions (in advance) will be offered 1 free full day session at BEECHE for up to 30 pupils.

- 1.8 It is proposed that new charges are implemented to allow increased opportunities for delivery of higher quality events by Parks & Greenspace staff. It is proposed to pilot 4 high quality events in 2013/14 at the rates indicated below in order to establish if there is demand and interest. Benchmarking has shown that organisations such as The Conservation Volunteers, Wildwise and Lavender Farm run similar events and command (respectively) £50 (full day), £45 (½ day) and £35 (½ day). The exact charge for the events would be dependant on costs (for example fee for tutor, travel, materials, lunch).
- 1.9 'Buzz' type events will increase above inflation to ensure staff and material costs can be fully covered. Small scale craft activities in BEECHE during public opening times priced to reflect cost of materials.
- 1.10 Current charges for Group visits (for example scout/guide group) and talks do not currently operate on a full cost recovery basis; therefore the charge needs to increase to ensure costs to the borough are fully recovered.
- 1.11 BEECHE Room Hire fees are to be revised to justify continuance to accept room hire bookings throughout the year. Presently, the rate is too low – it is far more cost efficient to use the classroom for a school booking. Therefore term time room hire charges need to be in line with school charges – these will be known as our peak time hire charges. Outside of term time, during school holidays and weekends the hire charges need to reflect the intended user (community groups, private individual hires) and to ensure staff costs are fully covered. A phased increase is proposed over 2 years. Hire by commercial organisations would be negotiated with the charges outlined below as a minimum start point.
- 1.12 BEECHE is currently open at the weekends to provide information to residents regarding parks, woodlands and the wider countryside. In addition it is used to provide information about other environmentally focussed Council activities such as recycling and the promotion of green waste services. Small goods such as field guides and local history guides are currently sold; and this range is to be increased to include 'pocket money' items such as pens, pencils, rulers etc which could also then be offered for sale to visiting school groups.
- 1.13 All other charges and items for sale would be raised in line with inflation (rounded up to the nearest £0.25/ £0.10 as appropriate).
- 1.14 Income 2012/12 and potential income for 2013/14