

## Individual Executive Decision Notice

<b>Report title</b>	Arts and Culture Fees & Charges 2024-2025	
<b>Decision designation</b>	GREEN	
<b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b>	Councillor Bhupinder Gakhal - Cabinet Member for Visitor City Councillor Louise Miles – Cabinet Member for Resources	
<b>Wards affected</b>	All	
<b>Accountable Director</b>	Ian Fegan Director of City Economy James Howse, Director of Finance	
<b>Originating service</b>	Arts and Culture	
<b>Accountable employee</b>	Ruth Stanway	Arts and Culture Manager
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<b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>	N/A	

### Summary

The Constitution delegates authority to the responsible Cabinet Member for Visitor City and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of City Economy and the Director of Finance to vary fees and charges in line with key priorities. The Arts and Culture team have reviewed their fees and charges and are seeking permission to increase for 2024-2025.

**Recommendation for decision:**

That the Cabinet Member for Visitor City and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the Director of City Economy and the Director of Finance, approve the following fees and charges (and as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) to take effect as soon as possible.

**1.0 Background**

- 1.1 The Council levies a wide range of fees and charges for many of its services. Some are discretionary and others are either specified or restricted by legislation or Government.
- 1.2 In accordance with the Constitution all fees and charges will be reviewed at least every 12 months, having regard to costs of service delivery including recharges for support services and capital charges.
- 1.3 The Constitution delegates authority jointly to the responsible Cabinet Member for Visitor City and the Cabinet Member for Resources, in consultation with the responsible Director and the Director of Finance to vary fees and charges in line with key priorities.
- 1.4 Approval is therefore sought to implement the Arts & Culture fees and charges as detailed in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.
- 1.5 The Arts and Culture service charge fees for the following:
  - A. Educational Groups
  - B. Room Hire
  - C. Wedding Ceremonies

D. Image Licencing

E. Photography of collection items

F. Gallery/Museum Tours

1.6 Room hire fees are reduced by 50% for internal bookings (other council services)

1.7 The Arts and Culture service charges for the leasing of the following premises:

A. Makers Dozen Artist Studios

B. Offices at the Art Gallery

C. Shops located in the Art Gallery building

1.8 The Arts and Culture Service charge fees and rent in the following venues:

A. Wolverhampton Art Gallery

B. Makers Dozen

C. Bantock House Museum

1.9 Inflation was confirmed at 12.6% for 2022-2023 (figure taken from September 2022) and by 6.7% in 2023-2024 (figures taken from September 2023)

1.10 Historically the fees for weddings, room hire, education and guided tours have increased annually in line with inflation but due to inflation being so high in 2022-2023 fees were increased 2.6% below the rate of inflation.

1.11 The rent for the Makers Dozen Artist studios hasn't increased for over 5 years.

1.12 The rent for the offices on the first floor of the gallery hasn't increased for 2 years.

1.13 The fees for image licencing and photography haven't increase for over 5 years.

- 1.14 The rent for the shops in the gallery building increase at the end of the contracted lease period by market value and are therefore not included in the fees and charges list.
- 1.15 The cost for frontline staff, energy and other resources has increased considerably over the past five years.

## **2.0 Discussion**

- 2.1 The Arts and Culture service are seeking authorisation to increase the education, weddings (Bantock House) and room hire fees for 2023-2024 by approx.10%. This is 2.3% above the rate of inflation which was confirmed as 6.7% in September 2023. The rise above inflation is due to increasing under the rate of inflation by 2.6% in 2022-2023. See Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Arts and Culture Service are seeking authorisation to increase the wedding hire fee at Wolverhampton Art Gallery by up to 25% so the fee is the same as the fee charged at Bantock House Museum as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.3 The Arts and Culture Service are seeking authorisation to introduce a new fee for the tennis court area at Bantock House that previously wasn't hired out as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.4 The Arts and Culture Service are seeking authorisation to introduce a new fee for national and internal loans of artwork to other museums and galleries. This is to cover the administrative work required to facilitate the loan and is benchmarked against other similar organisations as detailed in Appendix 1.
- 2.5 The Arts and Culture Service are seeking authorisation to increase the fees for image licencing and photography of artworks by 20%, this is because the fee hasn't increased

for over 5 years and the cost of staff and other resources has increased considerably during this time. See Appendix 1.

- 2.6 The increased fees will be promoted once authorisation has been sought, clients who have booked and paid a deposit for their room hire or wedding ceremony will be charged the rate at the time of booking and not the rate on the date of their event.
- 2.7 An SLA for schools is seven visits per year for up to 30 children per visit.
- 2.8 The charge for room hire out of hours is higher due to the requirement to pay for staff to be on duty.
- 2.9 The charge for antiques fairs and craft fairs haven't increased since 2019/2020

### **3.0 Evaluation of alternative options**

- 3.1 If the fees are not increased in line with inflation and increasing costs this would have an impact on income and may start to cost the service to deliver.

### **4.0 Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 To cover costs incurred to remain affordable and competitive

### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 It is anticipated that increases in fees and charges will contribute additional net income of £13,500 supporting the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy.
- 5.2 Any impact on budgets arising as a result of the proposed fees and charges will be incorporated into budget setting process and will be reflected in future Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy update reports to Cabinet.
- 5.3 It is important to be aware that additional income from increases in fees and charges is uncertain, as the resulting impact upon demand that will arise from changes in fees and

charges cannot be predicted with certainty, although this is considered during the price setting process.

- 5.4 The impact of these changes to fees and charges will be monitored closely and reviewed again during 2024-2025 in line with the constitution.

[SB/04042024/M]

## **6.0 Legal implications**

- 6.1 The fee for room hire, wedding ceremonies and education bookings will be fixed at the time of booking and will not change events which are already booked if the fees have increased at the time of the event.

[RR/04042024/Q]

## **7.0 Equalities implications**

- 7.1 All fees are kept low and are affordable.

## **8.0 All other Implications**

- 8.1 None

## **9.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 9.1 There are no background papers to consider.

## **10.0 Appendices**

- 10.1 Appendix 1 - Draft Fees and Charges 2024-2025.  
10.2 Appendix 2 – Draft Fees and Charges 2024-2025 – Leasing.