



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

A660

Cabinet 28 April 2010

Recommendations from the Public Venue (The Apex) Working Party: 25 March 2010 (May10/09)

Cabinet Member: Cllr Mrs L Alexander

*Chairman of the Working Party:
Cllr Mrs Mildmay-White*

1. Review of Charging, Contracting and Ticketing Policy (Report A589)

RECOMMENDED:- That, subject to the approval of Council,

- (1) the new charging, contracting and ticketing policy, as set out in Appendix A of Report A589, be approved; and***
- (2) the Council's Constitution be amended to take account of the revised delegation arrangements, as set out in Appendix B of Report A589.***

The opening of The Apex meant that the Council's approach to the general management of its public halls and arts programming needed to change. It was, therefore, proposed that a completely flexible and commercial approach to charging hirers of halls and patrons of the Council's arts events should be adopted. A review of the current delegation arrangements in relation to management of public halls had been carried out in the light of the proposed change of policy and amendments to these were put forward for consideration.

The Working Party sought clarification on how the proposed policy would be applied in the case of voluntary organisations and local amateur arts groups. Officers advised that the flexible/commercial approach was being sought in respect of the charging policy mainly in respect of professional artistes and conference hirers, since such persons, or their agents, often sought to negotiate on hiring fees. Whether such requests could be accommodated would depend on the level of demand and a judgement on the merits of each case. In the case of local organisations the charges to be made would be generally in accordance with a scale of fees yet to be published. There might be circumstances, such as charitable events, when a discretionary preferential rate could be applied. Officers would, however, ensure that any discount of fees and charges would be applied consistently and fairly.