

Subject:	Use of the new Town Square, Rawtenstall	Status:	For Publication
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	27 th June 2012
Report of:	Chief Executive	Portfolio Holder:	Leader of the Council
Key Decision:	<input type="checkbox"/> Forward Plan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	General Exception <input type="checkbox"/>	Special Urgency <input type="checkbox"/>
Community Impact Assessment:	Required:	Yes	Attached: Yes
Biodiversity Impact Assessment	Required:	No	Attached: No
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1.	RECOMMENDATION(S)
1.1	That Cabinet approve the outline policy for the use of space at the new Rawtenstall Town Square.
1.2	All future minor amendments to the project to be delegated to the Head of Health Housing & Regeneration in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide members with an outline policy to support the future use of the new Rawtenstall Town Square.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 3.1 The matters discussed in this report impact directly on the following corporate priorities:
- **A clean and green Rossendale** – creating a better environment for all.
 - **A healthy and successful Rossendale** – supporting vibrant communities and a strong economy.
 - **Responsive and value for money local services** – responding to and meeting the different needs of customers and improving the cost effectiveness of services.

4. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific risk issues for members to consider arising from this report.

5. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS

- 5.1 As part of the Valley Centre demolition project, officers have been consulting community and faith groups and local businesses about the potential future uses for the new public open space and the level of charge which should be levied.
- 5.2 There is a vast range of potential users for the space and some effort needs to be made to promote the space in order to ensure that this new facility brings the most benefit onto the town centre.
- 5.3 In order to promote the space to potential private sector businesses the Council needs to agree a charging rate which reflects the market potential of the site, whilst also ensuring that it remains accessible and sustainable for community use.
- 5.4 However, as it is a new facility, it is recommended that the Head of Housing Health and

Regeneration is granted delegated authority in consultation with the Portfolio Holder to vary the charging rates to reflect market changes and that charging rates are reviewed in line with the annual budget setting process.

- 5.5 The proposed policy for charging is attached at Appendix 1 and is based on the following assumptions:
- That there will be no charge, other than costs, to not for profit organisations using the space for free events.
 - That charges will be levied at appropriate rates for community use which seeks to raise a profit or business use.
- 5.6 The charging policy is in line with regulatory requirements and current council policy regarding events, waste disposal and street trading.
- 5.7 A meeting has been held with community, faith and business groups in February to consult on the proposals for charging for the use of space and their comments have been reflected in the attached policy.

COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:

6. SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 6.1 Financial matters are noted in the report and appendix. The total income anticipated is not thought to be material in the context on the Council's wider budget resources.

7. MONITORING OFFICER

- 7.1 Legal implications are covered within the report.

8. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY (ON BEHALF OF THE HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)

- 8.1 No Human Resources implications arising from the report.
- 8.2 At this stage, there are no negative equality impacts identified on protected equality groups based on the implementation of the proposed charging policy fees for use of this new community space. As consultation continues the equality impact will continue to be reassessed.
- 8.3 The provision of a new public open space will positively contribute to fostering good relations between different groups and will enable communities to come together/community involvement.

9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT

- 9.1 Community Groups, Rawtenstall Chamber of Commerce, Rossendale Civic Trust.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The provision of public open space within Rawtenstall town centre has the potential to create a range of exciting opportunities for community and business led events. It is important that the Council determines a pricing structure that is attractive to the private sector and affordable for community use.

No background documents