

LONDON BOROUGH OF BRENT

Meeting of the Executive - 11th July 2005

Report from the Director of Environment and Culture

For action

Wards affected:
All

Report Title: BACES – Fees and Charges 2005/06

Forward Plan Ref: E&C-05/06-002

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out proposals for changes to the Fees and Charges Schedule of Brent Adult and Community Education Service, which is part of the Arts and Learning Division of the Environment and Culture Department.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Members approve BACES' fees and charges for the academic year 2005/06 as set out in Appendix A.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The basic principles underlying BACES' fees and charges are:
- a) fees should remain affordable in order to encourage participation in learning
 - b) the fee structure should be as simple as possible
 - c) fees should be in line with Learning and Skills Council (LSC) guidance
 - d) a move towards greater consistency with other services in the London West LSC area
- 3.2 The funding system currently applied by the Learning and Skills Council to all qualification-bearing provision in colleges, local authority adult and community learning services, and other institutions receiving "further education (FE) funding", assumes

that a proportion of a nationally agreed funding rate for each learner on a particular type of course or programme is paid by the individual learner in the form of a course fee.

- 3.3 The revised schedule for the academic year 2005/06 is set out in Appendix A. It is proposed that the hourly charge increases from £2.15 per hour to £2.20 per hour. It should be noted that there is a system of concessions for adults receiving benefits, and for many accredited and ESOL and Skills for Life courses there is no fee to the learner. The increase in charges is in line with other Boroughs in London West and many authorities will be charging £2.20 per hour.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Income from fees and charges form an integral element of service budget projections for the year. Failure to agree the revised charges or to generate the projected income will mean that compensatory savings have to be found from elsewhere within the service budget. The projected income so far will be £181,000.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications regarding the change in fees. Fees can be charged for further and higher education.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 Whilst increased charges could theoretically deter some disadvantaged groups, officers do not think that the proposed increases will be sufficient to prevent such groups from taking up the service. Concessions to the fee structure are made for those in the community who are in most need.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications

- 7.1 No staffing implications arise from this report.

8.0 Environmental Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct environment implications arising from this report.

Background Papers

The following paper was used in the compilation of this report:

- 1) 03/04 EAL 0042 Lifelong Learning & Cultural Services Fees and charges schedules 2004/5
- 2) BACES Schedule of Charges 2004/05 and 2005/06.

Contact Officers

Any person wishing to inspect the above papers should contact John Fitzpatrick, Brent Adult & Community Education Service, 1 Morland Gardens, London NW10 8DY. Tel. 020 8838 0808.

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BACES FEES AND CHARGES 2005/061. Service Charges

BACES produces an annual fee schedule which is agreed by members. The target fees to be collected in the Academic Year 2005 – 2006 totals some £181K. Progress against achieving this target is monitored on an ongoing basis. Any shortfall in the target will be met through compensatory savings from within the BACES' budget.

2. Fee Schedule

A summary of the proposed BACES fee schedule for 2005-2006 is laid out in the chart below. The schedule of the academic year 2004-2005 is listed for comparison.

		2004-2005	2005-2006
1.	Courses funded by the LSC	£2.15 per hour.	£2.20 per hour.
2.	16 – 19 year olds	No fee	No fee
3.	Concessions – Accredited and First Steps courses		
	a) Those in receipt of a means tests benefit	No fee	No fee
	b) All students attending Basic Skills – ESOL Literacy and Numeracy	No fee	No fee
	c) All students attending courses specifically designed for adult with learning difficulties or disabilities	No fee	No fee
4.	Concessions – Other Non-Accredited courses		
	a) Those in receipt of means tested benefit	1/3 of full fee	1/3 of full fee
	b) Those over the age of 60 and not in employment	1/3 of full fee	1/3 of full fee