

## Fees and Charges Extract – Leisure Centres

### Meadowside leisure centre Core Fees)

#### 22.1 Facilities and activity

Description	Details/ Type	2021/22 Fee £	2022/23 Fee £	% uplift
Gym adult session		8.05	8.30	3%
Fitness classes		6.25	6.45	3%
Exercise referral session		3.30	3.40	3%
Badminton court hire - peak		12.90	12.90	0

### 23. Winchester Sport and Leisure Park (Core Fees)

#### 23.1 Gym Sessions

Description	Details/ Type	2021/22 Fee £	2022/23 Fee £	% uplift
Gym adult session		9.50	9.80	3%
Junior Session		5.50	5.70	3%
Disabled Session		5.50	5.50	0
Fitness Classes		8.50	8.80	3%
Exercise Referral Sessions/Classes		4.00	4.00	0

#### 23.2 Swimming

Description	Details/ Type	2021/22 Fee £	2022/23 Fee £	% uplift
Adult Session		4.75	4.90	3%
Junior Session		3.00	3.00	0
Senior Session		3.00	3.10	3%
Disabled Session		3.00	3.00	0

**23.2 Other charges**

Description	Details/ Type	2021/22 Fee £	2022/23 Fee £	% uplift
Badminton Court Hire *Peak		12.50	12.50	0
Squash Court Hire Adult *Peak		8.60	8.90	3%
Squash Court Hire Junior *Peak		6.40	6.40	0

## **Council Tax 2022 Hardship Fund Policy**

### **Introduction**

The expectation is that this 2022 hardship fund will be used to provide council tax relief, alongside existing local Council Tax Reduction (CTR) schemes.

COVID-19 is continuing to cause fluctuations in household incomes and that combined with the pressures of inflationary increases in household bills some individuals may struggle to meet council tax payments. Councils have already established their CTR schemes for 2022-23 so cannot amend them for this year to take account of these changes. However, this hardship fund can be used to reduce the council tax liability of individuals in our area, using the discretionary powers under s13A(1)(c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

The proposed 2022 hardship fund is **£100,000**.

### **Summary of Scheme**

The scheme will be split in to two parts for the purpose of administration.

Part 1 will provide up to a £50 discount on Council Tax for the 2022/23 financial year. This will apply to all Council Tax payers with domestic residences that existed in the Council Tax valuation list on 1st April 2022, and who were in receipt of working age Council Tax Reduction between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

Part 2 will be an allocation of the fund set aside for Council Tax hardship on a case-by-case basis. This is for households which are either not eligible for CTR or, receiving CTR, plus the top-up described in Part 1 of the policy, but still have Council Tax to pay. In both scenarios the Council Tax payer must be financially struggling to pay their Council Tax. This fund will enable more targeted relief to those most financially challenged as a result of the current climate and should be used in conjunction with WACTR (detailed below).

### **Part 1: Eligibility for Working Age CTR Claimants (WACTR)**

- Any application must be made by the person responsible for paying Council Tax at the property.
- The property address must be within the Winchester District.
- The property must be occupied.
- The Council Tax payer must be, or have been, in receipt of Working Age CTR for at least one week between 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 and 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- The discount will apply regardless of whether the Council Tax payer has been impacted by current economic circumstances, or not.

Where eligible, a discount will be applied to the relevant Council Tax account for up to £50. Where a taxpayer's liability for the year is less than £50 after the application of CTR and any other discounts, then their liability would be reduced to nil. Where a taxpayer's liability is already nil, no reduction to the Council Tax bill will be available. To clarify, in no circumstances will a cash credit of 'excess' discount be awarded.

The discount for all current CTR claimants will be awarded automatically by the Revenues team to the relevant Council Tax accounts. Any new claims received after this will be awarded by the Benefits & Welfare team who are responsible for the administration of the CTR scheme.

## **Part 2: Eligibility for Council Tax Hardship Fund (CTHF)**

- The application must be made by the person responsible for paying Council Tax at the property.
- The property address must be within the Winchester District.
- The property may be occupied or unoccupied, furnished or unfurnished.
- The Council Tax payer must have been considered for CTR since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022, or be in receipt of CTR, before being considered for CTHF. A discount may be awarded to a Council Tax payer who is not eligible for CTR.
- This discount will only apply to Council Tax payers who have been impacted by the current economic conditions.
- To qualify for this discount clear evidence of financial hardship must be provided. Wage slips, bank statements and any other relevant documentation must be produced as requested and the appropriate application form and financial statement completed. It is at the discretion of the Council to require the provision of any other information necessary to consider a discount under this scheme.
- This discount will be awarded to Council Tax payers after all other discounts, exemptions or CTR have been applied.
- The discount may be awarded to Council Tax payers who are in receipt of Benefits which are administered by the Council, the DWP in respect of Universal Credit or other DWP benefits, or HMRC in respect of Tax Credits.
- A discount may be awarded for an amount that would be equivalent to CTR in the case where CTR is unable to be backdated during the 2022/23 financial year.

Where eligible, a discount will be applied to the relevant Council Tax account for up to £50 (in addition to any amount for the WACTR discount) or, in exceptional circumstances, up to 100% of the outstanding Council Tax for 2022/23. Where a taxpayer's liability for the year is less than £50 after the application of CTR, any other discounts and exemptions, or payments, then their liability will be reduced to nil.

Where a taxpayer's liability is already nil, an application for this discount is not relevant. To clarify, in no circumstances will a cash credit of 'excess' discount be awarded to the Council Tax payer

The Service Lead for Revenues and Benefits will be responsible for overseeing the award of these discounts to Council Tax under WACTR and CTHF.

### **Application process**

- The scheme will be administered through Winchester City Council.
- An online application form will be available for Council Tax payers to use.
- An application must be made as soon as reasonably practicable. Any delay in applying may affect the decision to award a discount.
- The Council reserves the right to verify the evidence via any reasonable means.
- The discount will be awarded after all other discounts have been applied.

### **Review**

A review will be undertaken at mid-year to consider any changes in the above criteria.