

## 54. TRANSFORMING NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES - NORTH EAST

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The Chair commented that people had been concerned *that the charging system was complex and applied inconsistently. Although the system had been simplified, the more straightforward system was not being applied uniformly across the city. Members therefore asked that this situation be reviewed and a consistent approach adopted.* ~~The Chair commented that people had been concerned about increased charges and in 2013, when TNS had been previously considered at Scrutiny, the Commission had requested a simplified system. The Head of Neighbourhood Services responded that the council had not increased charges last year, but they had been simplified.~~

### RECOMMENDED:

- 1) Officers are asked to continue to talk to user groups to find a workable solution in respect of the Lunch Club held in the Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, as it is clear that the club provided benefit for people in the community.
- 2) In respect of youth services, the Commission has concerns about putting groups of a very different demography alongside each other and request that consideration be given to making separate access or entrances available.
- 3) ~~The~~ *That the Chair write to the City Mayor, asking him to advise the Executive of the Commission's regret express concerns that the Youth Services Review is not being undertaken separate to concurrently with the Transforming Neighbourhood Services Programme, as not doing so could be a lost opportunity to invest in properties to make them more suitable for joint access and use by differing groups and suggest that in future, those reviews are held at the same time.*
- 4) That the Director of Neighbourhood and Environmental Services be asked to:
  - a) *Reconsider whether certain spaces within community buildings can be made available free of charge for small groups or individuals for informal meetings by identifying them as "shared space". This could include facilities such as café areas; and The concept of shared space, such as café areas, in community and neighbourhood centres be revisited, to ensure that members of the community have some affordable and easy access*

- b) *Review the application of the charging system for the hire of Council-owned community premises, to ensure that the system is being applied uniformly across the city.*