

**CHIGWELL PARISH COUNCIL  
OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Committee:** Finance and Governance

**Meeting Date:** 10 June 2025

**Subject:** Discounted Hire Rate for Senior Citizens' Lunch Club at Victory Hall

## **1. Purpose of Report**

To seek approval from F&G to offer a £5 per hour discount on Victory Hall hire charges to the Senior Citizens' Lunch Club due to the temporary lack of kitchen facilities.

## **2. Background**

The Senior Citizens' Lunch Club is a long-standing non-profit community group providing meals, social connection and wellbeing support to older residents of Chigwell. The group currently attracts around 50 attendees per month.

Victory Hall, the usual venue for these gatherings, is temporarily without kitchen facilities. This has significantly impacted the club's ability to provide hot meals on site and increased logistical challenges and costs associated with off-site food preparation.

The club has not requested any grant funding from the Council and relies solely on community donations and volunteer support. A reduction in the hire charge would help offset the increased burdens caused by the lack of kitchen facilities and enable continued delivery of this valued community service.

## **3. Proposal**

It is proposed by Cllr Rye that the Finance and Governance Committee to approve a temporary reduction of £5 per hour on the hire rate for Victory Hall for the Senior Citizens' Lunch Club. This discount would apply until kitchen facilities are restored.

## **4. Council Responsibilities and Considerations**

### **a. Finance and Best Value for Money**

The proposal represents a modest financial concession to support a well-used community service. No grant is sought. The discount would marginally reduce hire income.

### **b. Governance**

A clear recorded Council decision will ensure transparency and proper authority.

### **c. Community Engagement**

The club directly benefits local older residents and provides valuable social contact and support.

**d. Equal Opportunities**

Supports an inclusive service specifically targeting older residents and helps to combat isolation.

**e. Crime and Disorder**

The group contributes to community cohesion and indirectly supports a safer community environment.

**f. Human Rights**

The proposal is proportionate and ensures that older residents continue to enjoy community facilities.

**g. Health and Safety**

The temporary kitchen closure may raise logistical issues. The discount assists in mitigating these while maintaining safe operations.

**h. Biodiversity**

No direct implications.

**5. Recommendation**

That the Finance and Governance Committee:

- Approves a temporary £5 per hour reduction in Victory Hall hire charges for the Senior Citizens' Lunch Club, effective immediately and continuing until kitchen facilities are reinstated
- Authorises officers to apply the discounted rate and notify the club in writing, updating booking and invoicing systems accordingly