

## Report of the Members Task and Finish Group on future provision of season tickets and car parking charges

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### **Subject: Car Parking: provision of season tickets and charging**

#### Purpose of Report

To ask Members to agree the policy statement for the Authority's operation of its charging and non-charging car parks

And

To agree a pricing structure, together with frequency of pricing reviews and pricing for P&D 2024 season.

#### Introduction/Background

At the Authority meeting in December 2022, it was resolved that a Task and Finish Group be established to consider the future provision of season tickets and car park charges across the Authority's car parks.

The group have met three times, considering the role car parks play in the National Park and the price of parking.

It was suggested that the first thing to agree is a policy statement for managing car parking in the National Park.

The task and finish group agreed on the following statement.

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority seeks to manage the car parks within its ownership to deliver against the National Park purposes and corporate strategy.

Through the management of the existing (40) car parks we seek to,

- Provide access and opportunity for locals and visitors to access the National Park.
- Provide safe, effective parking to meet strategic ambitions of PCNPA.
- Ensure full cost recovery for car park management operations.
- Secure a reasonable financial return from the public assets within our control for the benefit of public purse.
- Ensure transparency and ease as well as accessible information.
- Enable disability accessibility and priorities in proportion of space.
- Seek to incentivise carbon reductions linked to travel.

- Prevent car parks being used for overnight camping use, or dominance by outsize vehicles.
- Enable car parks and associated information to 'add value' to and promote PCNPA.
- Support local businesses by providing a well-managed car parking facility.

### Price Comparisons

It was agreed that comparisons with the pricing structure at other National Parks and Councils outside of Pembrokeshire, would not give a comparable picture.

The comparisons which were considered most relevant were the coastal car parks managed by Pembrokeshire County Council and the National Trust coastal car parks.

The National Trust offer a membership scheme for their parking therefore is not directly comparable.

The Pembrokeshire County Council coastal car Parks (which are charged differently to town centre parking) provided the best benchmarking for the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Car Parks.

### Options

The Group agreed that the current pricing structure worked well, however they considered that some uniformity across the county would be helpful to the public and suggested that Pembrokeshire County Council's (PCC) coastal car parks provide a good benchmark.

To align with the current PCC pricing structure, it was clarified with PCC officers that they were unlikely to raise their prices again in 2024.

The group discussed charging out of season, but it was agreed that the cost benefit of monitoring this and collecting payment did not make financial sense. It was also felt that the 'free' provision encouraged out of season tourism, supporting local businesses as well as offering a gesture of 'good will' for communities. Pay and display (P&D) units can accept donations during the 'fee - free' calendar months.

The provision of free 30 minutes tickets was also discussed, and it was agreed this was a useful offer that supports local businesses and communities and should continue.

The group agreed that the duration of the PCC and PCNPA seasonal charging periods should be standardised by agreeing a common start date in early spring and finish date in late autumn.

The group agreed that car parks played an important role in the decarbonisation agenda of the National Park, by providing EV charging points.

Limiting the number of season tickets sold and their transferability between vehicles was discussed but rejected on the basis that the additional complexity such changes

would introduce into the existing season ticket offer would materially outweigh any identified benefits.

The table below identifies current pricing for PCNPA and PCC coastal car parks with proposed changes.

	Existing PCNPA Tariffs ( 2023)	Existing PCC Tariffs (Coastal Car Park 2023 and beyond until next price review)	Proposed PCNPA Tariffs ( 2024)	Comment On proposed 2024 PCNPA Tariffs compared to 2023
Up to 30 mins	nil	nil	nil	No Change
Up to 1 hour	£1	£1.50	£1.50	50% increase ( to match PCC)
Up to 2 hours	£2	£3	£3	50% increase ( to match PCC)
Up to 3 hours	£3	N/A	N/A	Remove offer( if retained a 50% increase would result in a price point of £4.50)
Up to 4 hours	N/A	£4.50	£4.50	Introduction of 4 hr tariff at £4.50 ( to match PCC) is better value for motorist ( see note above re deleted 3 hour tariff) and also supports use of E.V charging spaces which have a max 4 hour wait time
All Day	£5	£6	£6	Increase to match PCC

Coaches All Day	£8	N/A	£8	No Change
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### Financial considerations

The recommended changes to the P&D tariffs will materially increase the aggregate revenue but will not materially increase our current operating costs.

### Risk considerations

The proposed changes to the P&D tariffs and start/finish date of the charging season will require a variation of our existing car park order.

### Compliance

The recommended changes do not represent a material change of direction from our pre-existing car park operation and as such no additional compliance issues have been identified.

### Human Rights/Equality issues

Nonapplicable

### Biodiversity implications/Sustainability appraisal

Car parks play a role in supporting decarbonisation of travel through the provision of electric charging points.

### Welsh Language considerations

Nonapplicable

### Conclusion

It is recommended that a policy statement is produced to reflect the role of the car parks in facilitating and enabling people to access the National Park.

The car park charges increase in line with PCC coastal car parking charges for 2024 season and that prices are reviewed annually, and the pricing structure reviewed every 3 years.

### **Recommendation:**

Members to agree the above policy statement.

To agree to increase the P&D car parking charges to align with the PCC coastal car parking charges for 2024/25 season and to begin the process of amending the PCNPA current car park charging order.

To agree to an annual review of car park charges and a 3 yearly review of pricing structure.

### Background Documents

Task and Finish Group Terms of Reference.

*(For further information, please contact Jessica Morgan or Gary Meopham)*

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*Consulted/engaged with (internal and/or external stakeholders):*