

**REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE PROPERTY & PROJECTS GROUP**

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**SUBJECT: A POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE AUTHORITY'S CHARGING CAR PARK OPERATION**

**Purpose of Report**

To provide a Policy framework for the Authority's charging car park operation.

**Background**

Members approved a report in November 2016 which outlined the Authority's pre-existing car park operation and set out recommended changes. Members receive an annual operational report each autumn which summaries the charging season just finished and outlines the actions required in preparation for the start of the next charging season.

At their meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2019 Members of the Audit and Corporate Services Review Committee considered report No.15/19 (Internal Audit Report 2019/20) which reviewed a document prepared by Gateway Assure acting in their capacity as internal auditors entitled **Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Internal Audit Report Block 1 - July 2019**. A number of Members agreed with the Auditor's recommendation that a car park policy would be helpful and ensure consistency.

The policy objectives set out below provide a framework for the continuing delivery of a charging carpark operation by the Authority.

**Policy Objectives**

The Authority provides and/or manages a number of charging car parks around the National Park, as do Pembrokeshire County Council, the charitable sector and other independent providers, to assist the public in enjoying the National Park.

Income generated from car parking fees is used to maintain our car parks, and support our work of keeping the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park a special place, including maintaining footpaths and conserving wildlife. This also helps ensure that the public can continue to enjoy the National Park and its Special Qualities.

The legislation surrounding the Authority's car parking activities is contained in S90(5) and S12 (Part II) of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949 (as applied to National Park Authorities by virtue of the Environment Act 1995), the Local Government Act 2003 and S32 and S55 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The legislation demands that Authorities manage their assets effectively and appropriately. This has been applied over many decades by local authorities UK wide to include charging for the provision of parking services on authority owned land.

Any motorist using a car park should do so in compliance with the car park's terms and conditions of use, which should comply with all statutory requirements including the relevant extant resolution of the Authority, and be fair, equitable and consistent across all its charging car parks.

The Authority should ensure that its car parks are accessible to motorists up to and including each site's optimum capacity and that the physical condition of its car parks are maintained to a reasonable standard.

### **Financial, Risk & Compliance Considerations**

It is recommended that this Policy should be reviewed every five years or more frequently as may be necessary in response to any relevant legislative changes.

### **Human Rights/Equality Issues**

No issues in addition to those already outlined above

### **Biodiversity Implications/Sustainability Appraisal**

No issues

### **Welsh Language Statement**

No issues

### **RECOMMENDATION**

**That Members approve this document as a policy framework for the Authority's charging Carpark operation with its next scheduled review to fall due in November 2024.**