

REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE PROJECTS & PROPERTY GROUP

SUBJECT: To Report expressions of interest from Amroth, Angle and Nolton & Roch Community Councils regarding the management of public car parks at Amroth, West Angle and Nolton Haven which are owned and operated by the National Park Authority

INTRODUCTION

The Authority's direct involvement at Amroth, West Angle and Nolton Haven Car Parks extend over half a century, commencing with the acquisition of the sites in the 1960's. The parking facilities were developed shortly after purchase and have been made available to the general public ever since under the Authority's ownership and direct management. Members have resolved to change the status of the car parks from year round 'free use' to that of 'seasonal charging' in line with its pre-existing portfolio of owner operated seasonal charging car parks. There will be no loss of service to the public or material impact on parking capacity at the sites as a consequence of these changes and your Officers have the capacity to maintain the ongoing operation of the sites.

Members have received a direct circular email from Nolton & Roch Community Council dated 17/1/19 expressing an interest that management of Nolton Haven Car Park be transferred to the community supported by the collection of onsite donations in lieu of parking charges via the medium of an 'honesty box' system. The Authority's Chairman has sent a courtesy holding reply to the Community Council pending a more substantive response following the next NPA meeting. In the meantime, your Officers have been unable to identify how such an operation would materially improve the delivery of parking services which the Authority currently offers and proposes to maintain under a seasonal pay and display operating model.

Members have received a direct circular email from Angle Community Council dated 25/2/19 with appendices, including a letter from the Community Council to the Authority's Chief Executive dated 19/11/18. The latter proposes that West Angle Car Park be transferred to Angle Community Council via the mechanism of Community Asset Transfer in the event that the Authority proceeds with the introduction of parking charges. Your Chief Executive has sent a courtesy holding reply to the Community Councils letter dated 19/11/18 pending a more substantive response following the next NPA meeting. Members are advised that West Angle Car Park remains a core site for the

service delivery of public parking and is not identified for disposal. Community Asset Transfer is therefore not an appropriate consideration.

The Authority's Chief Executive and Chairman have also received an email from Amroth Community Council dated 18/12/18. That email outlines the latter's interest in running Amroth Car park as a year round 'free use facility' via the medium of Community Asset Transfer, failing which they would be interested in managing the car park as tenants of the Authority under a new occupational lease on terms to be agreed reflecting a nominal rent. Your Officers have sent courtesy holding replies to the Community Council pending Members consideration of the matter at your next NPA meeting. Members are advised that Amroth Car Park remains a core site for the service delivery of public parking and is not identified for disposal. Community Asset Transfer is therefore not an appropriate consideration. Officers have been unable to identify how the operation of the car park by the Community Council under their proposed leasehold model would materially improve the delivery of parking services which the Authority currently offers and proposes to maintain under a seasonal pay and display operating model.

As at today's date the Authority is not seeking partners or arm's length third party's to operate any or all of our charging car park sites.

Financial, Risk & Compliance Considerations

The proposed introduction of seasonal parking charges at these three sites is in response to a pre-existing resolution of Members. The Authority has a responsibility to raise reasonable revenue streams from the assets which it holds and the services which it provides. There is a general acceptance of parking charges among the wider motoring population and the proposed parking charges and terms of use at Amroth, West Angle and Nolton will mirror those which already govern the public's use of the Authority's 10 pre-existing charging car parks.

Human Rights/Equality Issues

The proposed introduction of charges will not result in the loss of a public service or any risk of the asset passing out of public ownership. Community Asset Transfer is not a relevant consideration. The respective approaches from the three Community Councils have been submitted as alternatives to the proposed introduction of seasonal parking charges. The introduction of those proposed charges is subject to an ongoing statutory procedure and would come into effect commencing March 2020 if approved.

Biodiversity Implications/Sustainability Appraisal

No issues

Welsh Language Statement

No issues

RECCOMENDATION: That Member's resolve to decline the Community Councils respective interests in running the delivery of public parking services at Amroth, West Angle and Nolton Haven.