

# Report of the Director of Environment & Sport to the meeting of Executive to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

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## **Subject:**

**PETITION REFERRED FROM FULL COUNCIL 18.10.16 – CAR PARKING CHARGES AT ST IVES**

## **Summary statement:**

The Friends of St Ives group are petitioning the Council to overturn its decision to introduce a charge for car parking at St Ives Country Park, Bingley. Full Council has referred the matter to Executive for further consideration

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## **Portfolio:**

**Environment, Sport and Culture**

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## **Overview & Scrutiny Area:**

**Regeneration and Economy**



## **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The Friends of St Ives are petitioning the Council to overturn its decision to introduce a charge for car parking at St Ives Country Park, Bingley. Full Council has referred the matter to Executive for further consideration.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Car parking charges were identified as a source of revenue to offset costs early in 2015. Council budget proposals for 2016-17 included the introduction of parking charges at some parks and woodlands. Many similar public and private countryside parks in the region charge for car parking.
- 2.2 Approximately 450 spaces were initially selected across five sites (St Ives, Ilkley Lido, Riverside Gardens, Lister Park, Cliffe Castle). Anticipated revenue from charging was included in 2016-17 budget proposals (£20,000, 2016-17; £40,000, 2017-18). Full Council agreed the budget in February 2016.
- 2.3 Project development began in spring 2016 with emphasis on scheme design, due diligence and key stakeholder consultation. Key Stakeholder consultation commenced in August 2016.
- 2.4 Prior to consultation in July 2016 the Friends of St Ives began a public campaign and have raised a number of arguments in opposition to the principle of charging for parking at this location. (see Appendices)
- 2.5 Consultation with commercial stakeholders (leaseholders at Bingley St Ives Golf Club, St Ives Equestrian Centre, Sports Turf Research Institute) has been more positive and welcomes investment in the estate as this becomes available. The scheme is seen as addressing access and parking issues during visitor peaks.

## **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 St Ives is one of 5 sites under consideration at this stage in the project. Other Parks and Woodland sites are available following assessment of their feasibility. The petition opposes the principle of charging for car parking at St Ives rather than the proposed methodology under consultation.

## **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

- 4.1 Budget proposals identify additional revenues of £60,000 over the period for 2016-17 to 2017-18 and are modest during the introductory phase. Analysis suggest that higher revenue may be possible across all sites providing an important funding stream for maintenance of car parking provision and environmental improvement at the selected sites.



## **5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES**

- 5.1 A decision not to proceed at St Ives may increase community opposition at other sites currently under consideration.
- 5.2 St Ives is likely to be one of the two most popular sites currently under consideration, putting the agreed additional revenue targets at risk.

## **6. LEGAL APPRAISAL**

- 6.1 The Executive are asked to consider this petition as exceptional business due to its potential impact upon the current years agreed revenue targets
- 6.2 Legal advice supports the introduction of charging at St Ives through a Traffic Regulation Order.
- 6.3 Council is in receipt of correspondence that asserts the Council may not have rights to make any charge at St Ives under the terms agreed when the estate was acquired in 1929 – these are currently being researched by Legal Services.

## **7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

### **7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY**

An initial Equalities Impact Assessment was produced prior to the budget setting process. The scheme design includes free disabled parking, elements of free parking provision, competitive pricing and discounted annual parking permits. The estate is freely accessible without charge for people who use public transport, cycle or walk.

### **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

The introduction of car parking charges will allow a more sustainable regime of parking provision and traffic management on key sites. There is also the potential to generate additional revenues to improve the environmental sustainability of each site.

### **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

No issues anticipated

### **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

No issues anticipated.



## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

No issues anticipated.

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

No issues anticipated.

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

8.1 None

## **9. OPTIONS**

9.1 Option 1: Re-affirm the original Council decision to introduce car parking charges at all viable Parks and Green Spaces sites including St Ives.

9.2 Option 2: Re-affirm the original Council decision to introduce car parking charges at all viable Parks and Green Spaces sites excluding St Ives.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

10.1 That the Executive reaffirm the previous Full Council decision to introduce car parking charges at all viable Parks and Green Spaces sites including St Ives. (Option 1)

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Cover letter & petition front sheet from Chair, Friends of St Ives.

Appendix 2: Speech given at Full Council

Appendix 3: Supporting comments collected through Change.org.

Appendix 4: Correspondence in support of the petition

Lady Bs Café, Woodbank Nursery

Get Out More, Friends of St Ives and

Harden Parish Council

Appendix 5: CBDMC Consultation letter – August 2016

## **12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

12.1 Full Petition containing 3596 signatures and other correspondences

