

Report to: Cabinet



Date of Meeting 3 November 2021

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Dowell Street Car Park

Report summary:

The Council previously considered a proposal from Honiton Town Council to enter into a management agreement in respect of Dowell Street car park in the town. At the Cabinet meeting of 2 January 2019, it was resolved that:

- 1. Honiton Dowell Street Car Park be included in East Devon District Council's Off-street Parking Places Order (subject to there being in place a lease in favour of East Devon District Council),*
- 2. that EDDC enters into a ten-year full repairing and insuring lease of Dowell Street car park, and*
- 3. that delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder Asset Management to enter into a detailed agreement with Honiton Town Council to provide car park management services on terms to be agreed, be agreed.*

REASON: There was demand for additional public car parking in the town and at present the use of the car park was unrestricted. The Town Council had considered the issues raised in the representations and had requested that the Council proceed with putting in place measures to enable EDDC to manage the car park as a public pay and display car park.

Consultation and advertising of the proposed variation in the East Devon Off-street Parking Places Order has been completed and Cabinet affirmed the previous decision at its meeting of January 2020. A draft lease and management agreement is now ready for signature by the parties but at the request of the Portfolio Holder, we are now asking the Cabinet to review the position and determine whether it wishes to make any alternative recommendation to Council. .

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

1. That Cabinet requests that Honiton Town Council confirm that they wish EDDC to manage the Dowell Street car park in accordance with the draft management agreement that has been shared between the organisations.

Reason for recommendation:

To consider further the decision made by this Council on 2 January 2019, which was affirmed by Cabinet on 8 January 2020.

Officer: Andrew Ennis, Service Lead for Environmental Health and Car Parks

Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Democracy, Transparency and Communications
- Economy and Assets
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Tourism, Sports, Leisure and Culture

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

This is a small car park and it is already well used. The proposed management arrangements are not anticipated to result in any increase in emissions of greenhouse gases locally. However in the longer term this and other car parks will need to be reviewed as part of our climate emergency action plan to ensure that opportunities for introducing incentives to discourage the use of petrol and diesel fuelled vehicles in our towns and to consider the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure at this site are not overlooked.

Risk: Low Risk: This is an opportunity to provide a service for Honiton Town Council enabling this Council to develop its car parking services with minimal risks to its reputation and a modest financial gain.

Links to background information This matter has previously been considered and approved by this Council. [Original report](#) and minutes (item 123) from 8 January 2020.

Link to [Statement of Intent](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- Better Homes and Communities for all
- Greener East Devon
- A resilient Economy
- Services that matter

Report in full

Following further consideration of representations made locally in respect of the possible continuing use of the car park in connection with The Beehive in the spring of 2021, The Town Clerk has now stated that the Town Council is ready to proceed with the lease and management agreement. However our Portfolio Holder has suggested that it would be prudent for this council to review its previous decision because of the amount of time that has elapsed.

Financial implications:

The original proposal was agreed on the basis that costs would be recovered by the Council and no additional budget was being requested.

Legal implications:

The legal implications in relation to managing the Dowell Street car park are contained in the previous reports. The original decision of January 2019 (affirmed January 2020) essentially forms part of the Car Parking Strategy and is capable of implementation. Should Cabinet wish to recommend an alternative course of action then this will require a recommendation to Council given that the Car Parking Strategy is part of the Policy Framework.