

# APPENDIX L

## WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 2 OCTOBER 2012

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**Title:**

**WEYHILL CAR PARK, HASLEMERE**

**[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King]**

**[Wards Affected: Haslemere Critchmere & Shottermill]**

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**Summary and purpose:**

To seek authority to allocate a one-off sum in the current financial year to finance the submission of an application for Common Land Consent under Section 38 of the Commons Act 2006 for the refurbishment of Wey Hill Car Park, Haslemere.

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**How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:**

This report relates to the Council's **Value For Money** priority as the proposed project will contribute towards the achievement of a balanced budget in future years; it also relates to the **Understanding People's Needs** priority, as a fresh consent for works ensures that the Council is demonstrating a high level of transparency and seeks to improve parking provision within Haslemere.

**Equality and Diversity Implications:**

Unlike the current car park, the refurbished car park will make appropriate provision for disabled parking in line with other Council-operated car parks.

**Environment and Climate Change Implications:**

The design brief for the refurbished car park will include a requirement to incorporate carbon efficient lighting and recycled surfacing materials.

**Resource/Value for Money Implications:**

Currently, there is a capital sum of £342,000 in the 2012/13 capital programme for the implementation of this project, with an indicative ongoing income stream tentatively included in the parking services revenue budget from 2013/14 onwards. The estimated costs of submitting an application for Common Land Consent (including costs of consultation) are set out in the report.

**Legal Implications:**

Legal implications are covered in the main body of the report.

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## **Background**

1. At its meeting on 3 July 2012, the Executive agreed to authorise the preparation and submission of a fresh application for common land consent for the refurbishment of Weyhill Car Park under S38 of the Commons Act 2006.
2. This decision was subsequently called-in by Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee, and the Committee's observations and comments were brought before the Executive at its meeting on 4 September 2012.
3. At that meeting the Executive:-
  - a. noted and thanked the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its comments on the report; and
  - b. agreed to the recommendation from the Community Overview and Scrutiny Committee that a six week pre-application consultation with local traders, residents and the Town Council should be carried out before moving on to the second stage.
4. Although a capital sum of £342,000 was allocated in the current financial year to finance the refurbishment project, no funding was made available to finance the submission of a fresh application for Common Land Consent (and the associated consultation costs), as it was not originally intended to seek a fresh consent.
5. There is no cost associated with submitting the application itself, however, it is expected that the applicant manages and finances any informal 'pre-application consultation', as well, in due course, as paying for the cost of advertising the fact that the application has been submitted and the formal consultation is open.
6. It is proposed that both consultation exercises are promoted through the posting of formal notices in both the Haslemere Herald and Surrey Advertiser, and through the displaying of notices on-site. Furthermore, it is proposed that, as part of the pre-consultation exercise, affected local organisations and individuals are contacted directly to seek their opinions.
7. Based on previous experience with consultation on parking tariff changes, it is estimated that this process is likely to cost approximately £1,500 as follows:

	Estimated cost
Pre-application half-page advertisement in Surrey Advertiser and Haslemere Herald	£750
Production of on-site notices for pre-application consultation	£20
Pre-application letters sent to approximately 30 organisations/ residents/ businesses	£10
Formal Notification of application and statutory	£700

consultation period in Surrey Advertiser and Haslemere Herald	
Production of on-site notices advising of application and statutory consultation period.	£20

8. It is proposed that, as far as possible, the pre-application consultation is managed electronically, which will ensure that the process is as efficient and robust as possible. Furthermore, the administration of the main application process, including receipt and acknowledgement of representations, is carried out by the Planning Inspectorate. The estimates above do not therefore take account of any officer time.
9. Clearly, should the application generate sufficient opposition to warrant a Public Inquiry, a further sum (potentially as much as £20,000) would need to be made available in due course.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Executive allocates a one-off sum of £1,500 in the current financial year, in accordance with the Mid-Year Budget Review report elsewhere on this agenda, to finance the submission of an application for the refurbishment of Weyhill Car Park under S38 of the Commons Act 2006, and notes the potential for further costs of up to £20,000 should the consultation process lead to a public inquiry.

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### **Background Papers**

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

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