

INFORMATION ITEM



REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	OPERATIONAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	14 MARCH 2017	10
LOWTHER GARDENS CAR PARK			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY OF INFORMATION

Since the establishment of the Lowther Gardens Trust, Lowther Gardens Car Park, along with the rest of the Lowther Gardens site, has been owned by the Trust. Since then Fylde Council has retained operational responsibility of the car park with a service level agreement being established to support this arrangement. Income from parking charges and operational costs have been shared equally between Fylde Council and the Lowther Gardens Trust. The Trust has now advised Fylde Council of its intention to formally take over the operational management of Lowther Gardens Car Park from 1st April 2017.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION

Report to Cabinet on Lowther Gardens Trust, 23rd May 2012:

<https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/193/Committee/32/Default.aspx>

Report to Cabinet on Lowther Gardens Trust supplementary Service Level Agreement, 25th June 2014:

<https://fylde.cmis.uk.com/fylde/MeetingsCalendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/349/Committee/32/Default.aspx>

INFORMATION

Background

1. Currently Fylde Council operate 20 car parks across St Annes, Lytham and Kirkham. Of these 20 5 are free to use and 15 are pay and display car parks.
2. At the Operational Management Committee of 15th November 2016 it was reported that Kirkham Town Council had requested that the 3 free public car parks in Kirkham (Mill St, Orders Lane and Eagles Court) be transferred to them. This was agreed by the committee subject to certain provisions. The legal process to enable this transfer is currently ongoing.

Lowther Gardens Car Park

3. In 2006 Lowther Gardens was registered as a charitable trust with Fylde Council as the sole trustee. In 2010 a group of independent trustees was set up and by 2012 they took over the operation of Lowther Pavilion with a service level agreement (SLA) established to cover the support Fylde Council would provide to the Trust over the following 5 years. In 2014 a

supplementary SLA was produced to cover the rest of Lowther Gardens which was not included in the original SLA including Lowther Gardens Car Park.

4. Since 2012 there has been an income and cost sharing arrangement in place between Fylde Council and Lowther Trust with pay and display income and costs associated with operating the car park (excluding enforcement income and costs) being divided 50/50. Total income to Fylde Council has previously been budgeted at £5,770 per year. The latest update to the Financial Forecast has been amended to reflect the loss of this income.
5. On 8th November 2016 the Council's Principal Parking and Energy Officer received a message from the Chair of Lowther Trust to advise the Trust's intention to end the current arrangement regarding the car park and take over the car park operation themselves as of 1st April 2017. This was further confirmed in a message on 19th January 2017. The Principal Parking and Energy Officer has offered to work with the Trust to ensure the transfer of this operation occurs smoothly and has already advised the Trust's Chair of various issues that need to be addressed to operate the car park in future.

Conclusion

6. Once the transfer of the 3 Kirkham Car Parks have been finalised and the Lowther Trust takes over operation of Lowther Gardens Car Park then Fylde Council will have 16 remaining car parks (2 free and 14 pay and display). There will be an annual decrease in budgeted income of £5,770. Some cost savings will be achieved relating to the operation of the pay and display machine (eg machine maintenance, cash collections, sim card, tickets, etc...) of approximately £500 per year. Other costs (eg officer time, grounds maintenance, enforcement, etc...) will be utilised on other car parks.

WHY IS THIS INFORMATION BEING GIVEN TO THE COMMITTEE?

To advise the committee of the intention of Lowther Trust to take over the operation of Lowther Gardens Car Park from 1st April.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact - Andrew Loynd, Principal Parking and Energy Officer, 01253 658 527