

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Report to:	Executive Committee
Date:	18th July 2016
Subject:	Transfer of Holyhead Park to Holyhead Town Council
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr. Richard Dew
Head of Service:	Dylan J. Williams
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Local Members:	Cllr. Robert Ll. Jones, Cllr Raymond Jones, Cllr J Arwel Roberts

A – Recommendation/s and reason/s

To transfer Holyhead Park to Holyhead Town Council for nil consideration due to the following reasons:

In 1917, the freehold of the park was gifted to Holyhead Urban District Council (as succeeded by Isle of Anglesey Council). Under the terms of the Recreation Ground Act 1859, the land is held in Trust as a “public ground for the purpose of the Recreation Ground Act” for the benefit of the people of Holyhead.

Section 7 of the Council’s Asset Management Policy & Procedures (May 2016) outlines the Council’s policy on asset transfers. Some consideration was also given to the recently published best practice guide in relation to community asset transfers by the National Assets Working Group. Initial consideration of the expressions of interest submitted highlighted some factors where Holyhead Town Council (HTC) outscored the other organisation. For clarity these are summarised as:

Holyhead Town Council is a public authority and as such is exempt from much of the recent legislation for transfers of playing fields.

Holyhead Town Council already possesses similar assets in its own portfolio; it has the staff and equipment to manage the grounds and facilities..

As a Trustee, Holyhead Town Council can guarantee their medium to long term future to ensure a smooth transition for the trust beneficiaries with the minimal impact for their continued use.

The property has been independently valued by the District Valuer, but as a trust, any income derived from the sale/ transfer of this property must be retained for the purposes of the trust object and therefore would be transferred with the asset.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them?

Below outlines the process taken:

- Holyhead Park Survey Results Paper authorised by Head of Service Economic &

Community Regeneration Service.

- As part of the Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decision) (Wales) Regulations 2015 we did the following: put a notice up on site , delivered to adjacent houses, sent to groups and organisations that may have an interest in the Park. Also we passed on to Play Wales, Sports Wales and various other organisations as part of the Regulation, this was done 6 weeks prior to moving forward.
- As part of the Local Government Act 1972 under section 123 (2a) for the disposal of public open space there was a requirement for notices to be published for a two week period inviting representations which must be given consideration before proceeding with the decision. This is a statutory requirement and therefore took place concurrently with the Playing Fields (Community Involvement in Disposal Decision) (Wales) Regulations 2015 mentioned above.
- Notices were published in the local press for a two week period as required and expressions of interest were invited for consideration.
- An internal Steering Group was established, made up of Officers from Leisure, Economic & Community Regeneration Service and Property Services considered each of the declarations of interest submitted along with an independent impact assessment and reported to the Corporate Land & Buildings Assets Group.

C – Why is this decision for the Executive?

The approval of the Executive is sought to comply with the Asset Management Policy and Procedures (May 2016)

D – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

This decision is consistent and complies with the Asset Management Policy & Procedures.

DD – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

Decision made by Commissioners in 2012 to cease the funding for the park.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Strategic Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	Have considered the draft report, suggested amendmens have been incorporated.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer	

	(mandatory)	
4	Human Resources (HR)	
5	Property	Have been involved as a member of the Steering Group and contributed to this report.
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	
7	Scrutiny	
8	Local Members	Cllr Robert Ll. Jones emphasised the importance of safeguarding the site for leisure and recreation purposes and that redevelopment for other uses (e.g. housing) does not take place.
9	Any external bodies / other/s	N/A

F – Risks and any mitigation (if relevant)

1	Economic	Transfer will safeguard and provides opportunity to secure new investment to improve quality and increase usage.
2	Anti-poverty	
3	Crime and Disorder	
4	Environmental	
5	Equalities	
6	Outcome Agreements	
7	Other	

FF - Appendices:

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G - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

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