



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**COMMITTEE**

**14<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

**Report of the Head of Property and Regeneration**  
**Simon Brennan**

**Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected:** Glynneath

Proposed Waterfall Country Park and Ride Pilot

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to implement a pilot project between July 2021 and September 2021 which aims to deliver a small scale visitor Park and Ride service between Glynneath and Pontneddfechan. The purpose of the pilot is to understand the impact of the intervention on the significant parking pressures within the village of Pontneddfechan and wider Waterfall Country.

**Executive Summary**

2. Neath Port Talbot CBC work alongside other public sector partners to deliver a co-ordinated approach to the management and future marketing of Waterfall Country.

3. Significant visitor pressures across Waterfall Country over the past 5-10 years have led to partners examining a range of options for easing visitor pressures. One such scheme is to deliver a pilot Park and Ride Service in the summer of 2021 between Glynneath and Pontneddfechan.
4. This report sets out the proposed location for the park and ride car park, details of the proposed service and the estimated costs for the pilot.
5. The report seeks Member's approval to proceed with delivering the park and ride pilot project between July 2021 and September 2021.

## **Background**

### Waterfall Country Visitor Pressures

6. Neath Port Talbot CBC sits on the Waterfall Country Partnership which aims to achieve a co-ordinated approach to the management and future promotion of the range of waterfalls which make up 'Waterfall Country'.
7. The partnership consists of a range of partners including; Brecon Beacons National Park, Natural Resources Wales, Neath Port Talbot Council, Powys County Council, Rhondda Cynon Taf Council and the new community organisation 'Waterfall Country Cymru' which includes members from the range of Community Council's which are located within the Waterfall Country boundary.
8. Over the past few years, parking pressures have created significant issues for residents within Pontneddfechan. The coronavirus pandemic; coupled with stay home/ local guidance and the popularity of visitor generated content on social media platforms, has further intensified visitor pressures.
9. In order to ease these issues the Waterfall Country Partnership has explored the feasibility of a range of large and small scale

measures to manage parking across the waterfalls area. One such measure which has been examined is the introduction of a Park and Ride service.

10. Local members for Glynneath have been consulted on the emerging Park and Ride proposals, and are keen to see a pilot service run during 2021 in order to alleviate some of the pressures that their communities are seeing in relation to visitor parking.

### Park and Ride Service

11. Brecon Beacons National Park (on behalf of the Waterfall Country Partnership) recently published a feasibility study which identifies transport options that could ease parking pressures across Waterfall Country. Within the report it is concluded that Glynneath offers particular potential as a base for a park and ride service serving Waterfall Country.
12. In addition to the convenient location of Glynneath, just off the A465; part of the motivation for basing a park and ride service at Glynneath would be to direct more footfall, and visitor spending, into the town centre.
13. The setting up of a large scale service covering all of Waterfall Country before the summer season of 2021 would not be feasible. However, the Waterfall Country Partnership are seeking to establish a small scale pilot service in order to obtain reliable data and examine the appeal of such a service during July and September 2021.
14. In summary the service would:
  - Start at Lancaster Close Car Park in Glynneath, stopping at each bus stop between this location and the Village Hall in Pontneddfechan (and back again).
  - Run half hourly between 9.30am and 5.30pm on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Monday during the 2021 summer holidays (July to Sept).

- Be free to use in 2021 with the intention of starting to change parking behaviours. Research would be undertaken during the pilot to build up data on how the service is used and what charges would be tolerated in future years.

#### Proposed Park and Ride Base

15. Lancaster Close Car Park has been identified as the preferred base for the Park and Ride service in consultation with the local Members for Glynneath. This car park has been selected as it is generally under-utilised on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.
16. Lancaster Close Car Park would offer approximately 40 spaces for the Park and Ride service. Should the service be deemed feasible in the long term there is potential (subject to planning permission and funding) to extend the car park onto NPTCBC owned land next to the car park.
17. Should Lancaster Close Car Park reach capacity during the course of the pilot, there is potential for visitors to use other public car parks within Glynneath and catch the Park and Ride service via specific bus stops along the route.
18. The previously noted Feasibility Study identified Glynneath Leisure Centre Car Park as the preferred base for the park and ride. However this car park would be unsuitable as it is likely that this facility will be busy during weekends and bank holidays and there would not be sufficient car parking capacity remaining.
19. In addition to the above considerations the Leisure Centre car park is not in the control of NPTCBC and as such it would be difficult to deliver the pilot service from this location.

#### Temporary Parking Restrictions in Pontneddfechan

20. Subject to further investigations with NPTCBC Highways colleagues and South Wales Police; it is intended that on street

parking in Pontneddfechan will need to be subject to temporary restrictions whilst the pilot is underway.

21. This would involve reducing 'on-street' parking capacity by approximately 20-30 spaces during the pilot. Such measures would ease issues for residents, discourage visitors from parking irresponsibly and encourage them to utilise the Park and Ride service.
22. It is not proposed to place any limits on off-street parking during the pilot project as the current parking provision within the layby at Pontneddfechan and the capacity created by the local farmer in his field during peak periods are very much seen as part of the overall solution to parking pressures at this location.

### Estimated Costs

23. A procurement exercise has been carried out by the NPTCBC Integrated Transport Team utilising the Transport Framework. This has identified costs in the region of £209 to £225 per day to run the pilot bus service.
24. To run the service on Saturday, Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday in July and September 2021 the total cost for the service would be in the region of £3,553 to £3,825.
25. Additional to this would be the cost of;
  - Temporary signage to direct cars to the car park
  - Temporary restrictions to parking in Pontneddfechan
  - Promotion of the service to visitors
  - Passenger research to ascertain future demand
  - Promotional activities for the service.
26. The above additional costs are estimated (subject to quotations from relevant NPTCBC departments) at approximately £4,000 to £6,000.

27. In total the estimated cost to run the Park and Ride pilot project is approximately £8,000 to £10,000 to deliver the service during the summer of 2021.

### **Financial Impacts**

28. Brecon Beacons National Park has indicated that they are able to cover the cost of the bus service itself (approximately £4,000).
29. NPTCBC would therefore need to cover the remainder of the costs (approximately £4,000 to £6,000).
30. It is intended that these costs will be redeemed through Welsh Government's Local Authority Hardship Fund. The Director of Finance has confirmed the eligibility of these costs against the fund.
31. In the longer term the service is intended to be self-sustaining by raising revenue through charges either for parking or for the bus service itself.
32. It is intended that by offering the pilot service free of charge for the summer of 2021 we will be able to gather invaluable data on usage and price tolerance for future delivery and expansion of the service to cover the whole of Waterfall Country.

### **Integrated Impact Assessment**

33. A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016. The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.
34. The proposal will not have any adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics. The proposal has a positive impact on wellbeing objectives and sustainable development principles.

## **Valleys Communities Impacts**

35. The proposal will have a positive impact on the town of Glynneath.
36. The park and ride pilot will act to ease some of the weekend parking pressures in the village of Pontneddfechan during the summer of 2021.
37. Locating the pilot Park and Ride service within Glynneath town centre will encourage footfall into the town centre and encourage visitors to spend money within the local economy.

## **Workforce Impacts**

38. No impacts.

## **Legal Impacts**

39. No impacts.

## **Risk Management Impacts**

40. A detailed risk assessment will be carried out in relation to this running this service in close consultation with the NPTCBC Health and Safety Officers.

## **Consultation**

41. This proposal has been subject to consultation with the local Members for Glynneath who have expressed support for the proposals in order to ease significant pressures being experienced by residents of Pontneddfechan. In addition to this the proposed base at Lancaster Close Car Park has been identified by local members as the preferred location.

42. This proposal has been discussed with the new Waterfall Country Cymru community organisation during a recent Waterfall Country Partnership meeting. The representatives of this group are supportive of the proposed delivery of this scheme.

### **Recommendations**

43. Having had due regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment, it is recommended that Members approve the delivery of the Waterfall Country Park and Ride Pilot project to run on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays during the 2021 school summer holiday period.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision**

44. By delivering this pilot project we will be able to establish if these measures offer significant opportunities to relieve parking pressures within the village of Pontneddfechan.
45. Relieving these pressures have the potential to improve the quality of life of local residents and improve the visitor experience within Waterfall Country.

### **Implementation of Decision**

46. The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

### **Appendices**

47. Appendix 1: Map indicating Lancaster Close Car Park and proposed route.
48. Appendix 2: First Stage IIA Screening Form

### **List of Background Papers**



49. First Stage IIA Screening Form: Proposed Waterfall Country Park and Ride Pilot

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