

Appendix 2

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

<p>Initiative description and summary: Waterfall Country Park and Ride Pilot Project</p> <p>This report provides an evaluation of the Waterfall Country Park and Ride Pilot Project, including an analysis of usage data, visitor feedback and costs. The report presents two options to members with a recommendation to continue to deliver the service for the school summer holiday period of 2022 and 2023.</p>
<p>Service Area: Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development</p>
<p>Directorate: Environment</p>

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff		x
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age		X				The proposal will have no impact
Disability	X				L	The proposal includes the provision of low floor buses which comply with the Passenger Services Vehicle Access Regulations 2000, this will enable passengers with access needs to use the service to access the eateries and facilities in Pontneddfechan village. However, it should be noted that access along the Sgwd

						<p>Gwladys waterfall walk at Pontneddfechan is unavoidably limited due to the very nature of the pathways and waterfalls as geological features; the pathways are steep, narrow, muddy and uneven in places.</p> <p>Within wider Waterfall Country (outside the village of Pontneddfechan) there are accessible options available for visitors, such as Aberdulais Falls (subject to National Trust plans for reopening).</p>
Gender Reassignment		X				The proposal will have no impact
Marriage/Civil Partnership		X				The proposal will have no impact
Pregnancy/Maternity		X				The proposal will have no impact
Race		X				The proposal will have no impact
Religion/Belief		X				The proposal will have no impact
Sex		X				The proposal will have no impact
Sexual orientation		X				The proposal will have no impact

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language			x		L	The proposals will have no impact, all signage and promotional materials will be produced bilingually as standard.
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			x		L	The proposals will have no impact, all signage and promotional materials will be produced bilingually as standard.

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity		X				The proposal will have no impact
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			X		L	The scheme is designed to manage the number of cars travelling through the village of Pontneddfechan, there may therefore be a small positive environmental impact.

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		<p>For a number of years visitor parking pressures have created significant issues for residents within Pontneddfechan.</p> <p>The aim of the pilot park and ride service is to establish the impact that such a scheme can have, both on the quality of life of local residents (by easing these pressures), and the overall visitor experience within Waterfall Country.</p> <p>By extending the pilot for two more summer seasons NPTCBC will be able to mitigate the foreseeable parking pressures which the local community is likely to experience whilst a permanent solution is scoped out.</p>

Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		<p>The proposal will enhance opportunities to take part in outdoor activities which in turn enhances health and wellbeing within the local community.</p> <p>The tourism economy within Neath Port Talbot creates jobs and investment opportunities for local people. However, the quality of the visitor experience at Waterfall Country is constrained by a lack of appropriate infrastructure which limits the potential of the area as a visitor destination and impacts negatively on local communities. The park and ride pilot is part of a range of proposals being brought forward by the Waterfall Country Partnership to manage visitors more effectively and limit the negative impact of visitors within local communities.</p>
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		<p>The proposal has been developed through a feasibility study conducted by the Waterfall Country Partnership. The partnership consists of; 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.</p> <p>Local members for Glynneath have been in regular communication regarding the park and ride pilot and were supportive of the original pilot. Local members were 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.</p>
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		<p>The proposal has been developed through a feasibility study conducted by the Waterfall Country Partnership. The partnership consists of; 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</p>

			from the range of Community Council's which are located within the Waterfall Country boundary.
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	X		<p>An extension to the pilot project will help to establish if a park and ride service is feasible and practical at this location in the long term. At the centre of this pilot project is an attempt to alleviate some of the parking pressures at Pontneddfechan, in particular whilst a permanent solution is scoped out.</p> <p>In the longer term the intention would be to widen the geographical area which is covered by the service to benefit wider communities within Waterfall Country where similar visitor pressures are being felt.</p> <p>Research will be conducted with users of the service and their feedback will shape the future design of the service.</p>

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	x
Reasons for this conclusion	
<p>The proposal to extend the delivery of the pilot park and ride service between Glynneath and Pontneddfechan will not have any adverse impacts on people with protected characteristics.</p> <p>The project has a positive impact on wellbeing objectives and sustainable development principles.</p>	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Date
Completed by	Karleigh Davies	Tourism Manager	07/02/2022
Signed off by	Simon Brennan	Head of Property and Regeneration	07/02/2022