

## **Budget Proposals 2012/13: Major Decision: Business Unit : Residents And Visitor Services (Beach Huts)**

### **Combined Impact Assessment: Full assessment (Part 2)**

The council and its partners are facing a significant challenge in the savings it needs to make over the next couple of years. This Full Impact Assessment has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of proposed major decisions on the community. As a council we need to ensure that we are able to deliver the savings that we need to make from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and be able to justify our decisions through any legal challenge.

This full assessment, combined with the initial review, will evidence that you have fully considered the impact of your proposed changes and carried out appropriate consultation on those changes with the key stakeholders. The Combined Impact Assessment will allow Councillors to make informed decisions as part of the decision-making process regarding the council's budget.

**Name: Sue Cheriton**

**Position: Executive Head Residents and Visitor Services**

**Business Unit: Residents and Visitor Services**

**Department: Resort Services**

**Date: January 2012**

**Please see agenda item 5, page 5, proposal number 2**

## Summary from Overall Proposal (Updated as required)

Proposals – Outline	Savings 2012/13		Implementation Cost Include brief outline + year incurred	Delivery In place 01/04/12 If earlier or later state date	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential risks</li> <li>Impact on community</li> <li>Knock on impact to other agencies</li> </ul>	Type of decision*		
	Income £ 000's	Budget reduction £ 000's				Internal	Minor	Major
Beach Huts – Increased income – Increase charges on current charging in selected locations with waiting lists	37	-	Graduated increase on charges apply in yr1 linked to areas with waiting lists	04/2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Customer Resistance to pricing policy</li> <li>Waiting list significantly reducing due to increases</li> <li>Some loss of clients</li> </ul>			x

### Stage 1: Purpose of the proposal

No	Question	Details
1.	<b>Clearly set out the purpose of the proposal</b>	To increase the charges for beach hut rentals to reflect the demand at each beach. The new pricing structure will relate to seasonal site rentals (where customers provide their own huts, winter storage of owners huts, or use of these in winter locations, beach hut rentals on a seasonal basis and daily/weekly rental charges across the beaches. The charges proposed are still average in regard of other comparable resorts. The cost of beach services have increased and this needs to be reflected in the charging structure together with demand on certain beaches.
2.	<b>Who is intended to benefit?</b>	Current and future beach hut users/ seasonal and weekly rentals. Both residents and tourists will be affected. It will reduce the costs to the wider public and loss of services across Residents & Visitors Services (RVS). The purpose is to ensure other general services are not reduced as a result of the savings targets and increase costs and that users pay on levels of demand and usage.
3.	<b>What is the intended outcome?</b>	The proposals will be fairer to those who have been on waiting lists for many years on specific high demand beaches, and ensure that the pricing structure reflects usage on certain beach areas but enable beaches where traditionally there has been lower demand are not penalised by a flat rate overall increase which has happened in previous years.

### Stage 2: Evidence, Consultation and Engagement

No	Question	Details																																								
4.	<b>Have you considered the available evidence?</b>	There has been benchmarking of other resorts to ensure that the charging structure is comparable to other resorts. The increases have considered increased costs of general beach services that support the beaches in general and the facilities provided. The prices also reflect the increased cost of national non-domestic rates on provided units.																																								
5.	<b>How have you consulted on the proposal?</b>	The Beach Huts User Group (BHUGS) has been consulted on the proposals. All users will be written to in January and advised of the increase charges. They will be given the opportunity to change sites subject to availability or to not continue with their seasonal rentals. Availability of free sites/huts will then be offered to the waiting list on a 'next' on the list basis.																																								
6.	<b>Who have you consulted with?</b>	<p>The beach hut user group 'BHUGS' have been consulted. Some Community Partnerships have also been consulted on the increases at their public meetings. This has also been subject to a Full Council Report which was presented on <a href="http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MIId=2487&amp;Ver=4">8<sup>th</sup> December</a> (<a href="http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MIId=2487&amp;Ver=4">http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MIId=2487&amp;Ver=4</a>)</p> <p>All members of the public had access to the report and the full proposals. This was also reported in the local paper. The BHUGS send out newsletters to over 1000 users with a paid up membership for last year of 180 with over hundred members actually attending the meetings. Wider public "budget consultation" events have taken place and a questionnaire completed.</p>																																								
7.	<b>How many people responded?</b>	BHUGS have been consulted who represent over 1000 users across the bays beaches.																																								
8.	<b>Outline the key findings?</b>	<p>The BHUGs group were concerned about the charges but understood that prices would be rising significantly. The original proposal, following benchmarking, suggested that 23% across the board could be charged and still remains in line with the upper level of charges in other resorts. However following further investigation and discussion the proposal was reviewed to have a demand based structure with a maximum charge of 18% in the areas where there were high levels of demand and very long waiting lists spanning many years.</p> <p><b>Public Consultation:</b></p> <p><b><u>Would you support a proposal to increase the charges for beach huts? (£50k)</u></b></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="539 995 1599 1281"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Venue</th> <th colspan="2">Yes</th> <th colspan="2">No</th> <th rowspan="2"></th> </tr> <tr> <th>Count</th> <th>%</th> <th>Count</th> <th>%</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Westlands</td> <td>7</td> <td>64%</td> <td>4</td> <td>36%</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>T.C.C</td> <td>20</td> <td>100%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paignton</td> <td>17</td> <td>77%</td> <td>5</td> <td>23%</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dunboyne</td> <td>7</td> <td>100%</td> <td>0</td> <td>0%</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>51</b></td> <td><b>85%</b></td> <td><b>9</b></td> <td><b>15%</b></td> <td><b>60</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Venue	Yes		No			Count	%	Count	%	Westlands	7	64%	4	36%	11	T.C.C	20	100%	0	0%	20	Paignton	17	77%	5	23%	22	Dunboyne	7	100%	0	0%	7	<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>60</b>
Venue	Yes			No																																						
	Count	%	Count	%																																						
Westlands	7	64%	4	36%	11																																					
T.C.C	20	100%	0	0%	20																																					
Paignton	17	77%	5	23%	22																																					
Dunboyne	7	100%	0	0%	7																																					
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>60</b>																																					

No	Question	Details
9.	<b>What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?</b>	See above – after consultation it was agreed that the proposed increase of 23% would be reduced to a maximum of 18% in areas of high demand, and would be on average a 12% increase in other areas.
10.	<b>How will the results be published?</b>	The final proposals were agreed unanimously at Full Council on <a href="#">8<sup>th</sup> December</a> ( <a href="http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=2487&amp;Ver=4">http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=163&amp;MId=2487&amp;Ver=4</a> ) and are part of the public record. Users will be informed via letter in January when invoicing for 2012 season commence.

### Stage 3: Impact Assessment

No	Question	Details	
11.	<b>Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups</b>		
		<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>
	All groups in society generally	Gives an opportunity for people on very long waiting lists to get beach huts at the site of their choice	Some customers may not be able to afford their preferred option on sites where beach huts are located and may have to move or let huts go to others on the waiting list.
	Older or younger people	Older and younger people will have access and may get a greater choice of site as a result of the price structure changes.	People on low incomes may not be able to afford to take on beach huts in the future.
	People with caring responsibilities	There are free use beach huts offered for a number of care groups. Options to share Beach Huts could be an option for those unable to afford sole use.	Individuals outside these care groups may not be able to afford this discretionary service.
	People with a disability	Those beach huts that are currently accessible for the disabled will not be affected.	No change in access
	Women or men	Men and women are equally effected by the changes	Men and women are equally effected by the changes
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)	All ethnic groups are equally affected by the changes	All ethnic groups are equally affected by the changes
	People with particular religion or belief / no belief	These groups are equally affected	These groups are equally affected

No	Question	Details	
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	These groups are equally affected	These groups are equally affected
	People who are transgendered	These groups are equally affected	These groups are equally affected
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	These groups are equally affected	These groups are equally affected
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	These groups are equally affected	These groups are equally affected
	Socio-economic considerations	N/A	N/A
12.	<b>What are the impacts of your proposals to other agencies?</b>	No	
13.	<b>Does your proposal link to other decisions you are making?</b>	No	
14.	<b>Is there scope for your proposal to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations?</b>	<i>The positive impacts of this proposal are as follows:</i> The proposal gives people an opportunity on long waiting lists to obtain a beach hut at a site of their choice. Older and younger people will still have access to the beach huts and may get a greater choice of site as a result of the price structure changes. There are free use beach huts offered for a number of care groups and there is an option for people with caring responsibilities to share beach huts for those that are unable to afford sole use. Beach huts that are currently accessible for people with a disability will not be affected. People from all other groups (i.e. women/men, BME, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and people in a civil partnership or women who are pregnant or on maternity leave) are equally affected by the change.	

#### Stage 4: Course of Action

No	Action	Details
15.	<b>State a course of action</b>	<b>Outcome 2: Adjustments to remove barriers</b> – Socio-economic impact identified therefore an adjustment to the increase in charges has been made from 23% to a maximum of 18%
16.	<b>Identify any plans to alleviate any negative impacts</b>	No major impacts have been identified.

## Stage 5: Monitoring

No	Action	Details
17.	<b>Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of proposals</b>	We will monitor the impact of the proposal by monitoring the waiting lists at all sites to see if they increase or diminish. We will also monitor the number of bookings or beach huts on a daily, weekly and seasonal basis.

**COMBINED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PARTS 1 & 2) NEEDS TO BE SENT TO THE BUSINESS SERVICES TEAM FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE. IT WILL THEN BE SENT TO THE FINANCE BOARD AND USED AS PART OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS BY COUNCILLORS.**

### Notes:

- *The Equality Duty needs to be an integral part of the decision making process. Decision makers must consider what information he/she has and what further information may be needed in order to give proper consideration to the Equality Duty.*
- *Commissioned services – No delegation. Public bodies are responsible for ensuring that any third parties which exercise functions on their behalf are capable of complying with the Equality Duty, are required to comply with it and that they do so in practice.*

## Action plan / mitigating actions

Please detail below any actions / mitigating actions you need to take: -

No.	Action	Reason for action / mitigating action	Responsibility	Deadline date
1	Full Council meeting for Council decision	To obtain a decision to proceed with proposal	Sue Cheriton	8 <sup>th</sup> December 2011 - Complete
2	New bills to all beach hut owners incorporating the increased charges need to be issued (Bills to be sent in January)	Part of the annual billing process and to advise customers - in advance, of the increase charge	Sue Cheriton	January 2012
3				
4				
5				
6				