

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: TRANSFER OF SERVICES AND FACILITIES TO TOWN AND
PARISH COUNCILS COMMITTEE

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GARAGE SITES

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To present a position statement on Council garages sites and income and requests for transfer to town and parish councils.

RECOMMENDATION

That no further request for transfers of garage sites be agreed to.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

To maintain the Council's income.

1. The Committee has asked for a full list of garage sites managed by the Council and the income derived from each. This is attached.
2. Councillors will recall that approval has already been given for the transfer to Barrowford Parish Council of the small site at 3 Hilltop and the small site between Pendle Street and Holme Street (Lower Clough Street on the attached list).
3. Trawden Parish Council has requested that the two sites at Cottontree (shown under Colne but in fact in Trawden parish) and the site at Ash Villa be transferred to it with effect from 1st April 2016.
4. Councillors will appreciate that the total rental income from garage sites at £84,254.45 in the current year is an appreciable contribution to the Council's income from fees and charges. One of the strands of the Medium Term Financial Strategy to combat the reduction in the Council's funding is to grow income wherever possible and the Executive has already agreed to a 10% increase in garage rents from 1st April.
5. Taking into account the agreed 10% rise and assuming full occupancy the Council will lose £2,029.32 in the next financial year as a result of the decision on the Barrowford sites.

Agreeing to the request from Trawden would mean a further loss of £4,335.88. It is quite possible there may be further requests from parish and town councils.

6. It is understood that these facilities are local in nature and that the income they would get may help town and parish councils in running other facilities which the Council is encouraging them to take on. However wholesale transfer would lead to a loss of income that the Council would find very difficult if not impossible to make up from elsewhere.
7. Officers can therefore only advise that no further transfers of garages sites be agreed to.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy:	There is a conflict in this instance between the Council's policy of seeking to transfer facilities to town and parish councils and its need to maintain and grow income.
Financial:	These are set out in paragraphs 4 and 5.
Legal:	None arising from the report.
Risk Management:	None arising from the report.
Health and Safety:	None arising from the report.
Sustainability:	None arising from the report.
Community Safety:	None arising from the report.
Equality and Diversity:	None arising from the report.

APPENDIX – list of garage sites.