

MEETING	THE COUNCIL
DATE	1 MARCH 2012
TITLE	BUS DROP OFF POINT, Y MAES, CAERNARFON
PURPOSE	TO RESPOND TO A NOTICE OF MOTION
REPORT BY	ALED DAVIES - HEAD OF REGULATORY DEPARTMENT
PORTFOLIO LEADER	COUNCILLOR W. GARETH ROBERTS, SENIOR PORTFOLIO LEADER - ENVIRONMENT

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 A notice of motion was submitted to the Council on this matter on 20 October, 2011. The Council decided to refer the notice for consideration by the Environment Scrutiny Committee.
- 1.2 The Head of Regulatory Department's report on the appropriateness of the provision for coaches in Caernarfon was submitted to the Environment Committee on 1 December, 2011.
- 1.3 Prior to submitting the report to the Environment Committee, officers from the Regulatory Department discussed the matters raised with members of the Caernarfon Steering Group. This Group has been working with Council officers to look at schemes to improve Caernarfon town centre and to look at proposals involving transportation matters and environmental improvements. The Group's opinion was that existing arrangements had been put in place following extensive local discussions and that they were suitable for supporting the viability of the town's economy and were in keeping with the agreed objectives for the use made of Castle Square and its management.

2. THE DISCUSSIONS OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

- 2.1 The Committee noted that the location of the local Bus Services Station facilitated accessibility to the town centre and was close to public facilities and the services that people want to use. The location was considered in various consultations and the opinion was that it must be kept near the commercial areas. Work to renew the Bus Station will be completed in Spring 2012.
- 2.2 The Committee noted that the current arrangements for coaches include a drop-off area for passengers on Castle Square, and a drop-off and pick-up point for visitors at the bus stop near the Empire building on Balaclava Road. This is an important arrangement during busy times of the year, and reduces traffic pressure in the town centre.

- 2.3 The reason for locating the drop-off and pick-up point on Balaclava Road was to encourage coach trip visitors to walk through the town and spend time in the walled town. It appears that the majority of buses use the drop-off point on Castle Square with many walking through the town to be picked up later at Balaclava Road. The Regulatory Department and the Economy and Community Department are supportive of continuing with this arrangement in the future.
- 2.4 It is important to note that practical restrictions with regard to using Castle Square to pick up coach trip visitors include its size, location and suitability as a long-stay coach parking site, along with the effect on traffic flow and on the safety of those using Castle Square.

3. CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1 The Environment Committee resolved to accept the report submitted and the information which came to hand through the Caernarfon Steering Group and to agree that the current arrangements meet the needs of coaches which visit Caernarfon and support the local economy. It is not considered that the arrangements need to be adapted at present.