

## Appendix B

Report of the Town Clerk

Chapel Street Coach Park

### Background

1. In light of on-going concerns over the suitability of the location of the coach parking facility at Chapel Street, the County Council has reviewed a number of alternative options which still provide the potential economic benefits of attracting coach tour operators to stop and visit the town, whilst seeking to minimise any adverse impacts associated with coach parking/vehicular movements within the historic town centre area.
2. The options identified have included the following:-
  - a. **Option A** - continue to use the existing drop-off point in Church Street, with coaches being directed to park up out of the town centre (the proposed parking location being the Swan Leisure Centre car park in Tweedmouth). Once some minor white lining works are undertaken in the Swan Centre car park the existing coach park in Chapel Street would be closed pending the submission and determination of a planning application for use of the site as a town centre car park.
  - b. **Option B** - undertake works to the existing bus lay-up area at Walkergate to provide on-street coach parking /drop off provision. Cease using the drop off point at Church Street and close the existing coach park in Chapel Street pending the submission and determination of a planning application for use of the site as a town centre car park.
  - c. **Option C** - undertake further discussions with Historic England regarding the use of the extension area at Castlegate for coach parking. Cease using the drop off point at Church Street and close the existing coach park in Chapel Street pending the submission and determination of a planning application for use of the site as a town centre car park.
3. The County Council's preferred approach is **Option A** as this can be implemented without delay and with minimal additional cost, strikes an appropriate balance between provision of town centre access for tour operators whilst minimising the impacts of coach parking for residents. As with the other options it also enables additional and much needed additional town centre car parking capacity to be provided (subject to planning approval).
4. Members are reminded that, even if council expresses a preference for an option, it will still have to consider the issue afresh if consequent planning applications come to council for consideration, and that those planning matters will have to be considered on planning grounds, not on the basis of this decision.

## Recommendations

1. Members are invited to indicate their preferred option, as a council, to Northumberland County Council.