

COUNCIL – 9 NOVEMBER 2010

CHRISTMAS PARKING

Report of the: Community and Planning Services Director

Also considered by: Cabinet – 30 September 2010

Status: For Decision

This report supports the Key Aim of the effective management of Council resources.

Portfolio Holder Cllr. G. Williamson

Head of Service Head of Environmental and Operational Services – Mr. Richard Wilson

Recommendation: It be RESOLVED that:

The estimated cost incurred in offering free parking on two Saturdays before Christmas (£13,000) be approved as a supplementary estimate to the 2010/11 budget, to be funded from the General Fund Reserve.

Introduction

1. This report asks Council to approve a supplementary estimate to the 2010/11 budget to fund the cost of free parking on two Saturdays before Christmas. The proposal would support local traders and businesses in acknowledgement of the impact of the financial down-turn.
2. Set out below are details of the parking changes on those days. Members are asked to approve a supplementary estimate to the 2010/11 budget for £13,000, being the estimated cost of free parking on those dates.

Christmas Parking 2010 – extract from report to Cabinet 30 September 2010

3. Given the current economic climate, it is suggested that Members consider repeating the free parking concession during the run-up to Christmas in 2010 by making all car parks and on-street parking within the district free on the two Saturdays preceding Christmas Day. This year, Christmas Day falls on a Saturday and, therefore, free parking could be provided on Saturdays 11th and 18th December.
4. The provision of free parking would be of benefit to businesses and the local community and will encourage people to shop locally in the district.

5. Apart from a negative impact on the budget, the proposals would have no adverse impact. However, it should be noted that the provision of free parking will enable people to park up to the maximum period of stay should they so wish, which is likely to reduce the turnover of spaces. All parking areas will be enforced as normal to ensure compliance with general conditions of use.
6. As last year, all ticket machines would be closed-off with suitable signing provided to advise users that they do not need to pay.
7. The parking areas managed and operated by Sencio at its Sevenoaks leisure centre form part of the Suffolk Way car park. Sencio have been consulted and they have confirmed that they will take part in the free parking concession.
8. It is estimated that the loss of income for all car parks and on-street areas throughout the district for each Saturday would be slightly higher than last year. Allowing for signing, the cost for the two Saturdays is estimated at £13,000.
9. The suggestion that this be made available for Christmas 2010 is made subject to funding being made available by Council agreeing to a supplementary estimate.

Sources of Information: Cabinet Report 30 September 2010.

Contact Officer(s): Richard Wilson

**Kristen Paterson, Community
and Planning Services
Director**