

## CHRISTMAS PARKING 2015

### Direct and Trading Advisory Committee – 6 October 2015

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: Cabinet - 15 October 2015

Council - 3 November 2015

Key Decision: No

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**Executive Summary:** This report requests that the Committee considers free concessionary parking at Christmas 2015.

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**This report supports the Key Aims of:** The effective management of Council resources and supporting and developing the local economy.

**Portfolio Holder** Councillor Matthew Dickins

**Contact Officer(s)** John Strachan x7310

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**Recommendation to Direct & Trading Advisory Committee:** That proposals for free parking for two Saturdays, 12 and 19 December 2015, preceding Christmas be considered by the Committee and its views be submitted for consideration by Council and the cost of funding this be met from Supplementary Estimates.

**Recommendation to Cabinet:** That Cabinet considers the views of the Direct & Trading Advisory Committee and approves the proposals for free parking for two Saturdays, 12 and 19 December 2015 preceding Christmas.

**Recommendation to Council:** That Council considers the views of the Committee and if minded to agree to these proposals, that it authorises the cost of funding be met from Supplementary Estimates.

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**Reason for recommendation:** To help encourage shoppers and other visitors to Sevenoaks and Westerham, in the busy shopping period leading up to Christmas 2015.

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### Introduction and Background

- 1 In previous years the Council has supported local economies in the District, in particular in Sevenoaks and Westerham towns, by giving free parking in car parks and on street parking bays.

- 2 Relaxing parking charges on Saturday has no impact on Swanley or at Knockholt Station as charges only apply Monday to Friday.
- 3 This is of particular importance in light of similar initiatives operated in other towns in neighbouring Districts.
- 4 Vehicles parking for free are still required to observe maximum periods of stay in car parks and on street.
- 5 As in previous years Senico Community Leisure who's parking areas form a part of the Suffolk Way car park have participated in these events, they will be invited to participate again.

### **Background Information**

- 6 The estimated shortfall in income over the two days is estimated at £15,800.

### **Other Information**

- 7 Members are advised that, as in previous years, the Council's Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading will consider allowing free evening parking for Christmas Lights and shopping events in Sevenoaks on Friday 27 November 2015 and in Westerham on Thursday 26 November 2015.

### **Key Implications**

#### Financial

- 8 Shortfall in parking income of £15,800 to be met from Supplementary Estimates.

#### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

- 9 Management of "overstay" parking is difficult when there is no requirement for a ticket to be purchased and displayed.

#### Equality Impacts

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

#### Community Impact and Outcomes

- 10 Free Christmas parking is a local initiative popular with residents, visitors to the district, businesses and traders, and supportive of local economic vibrancy.

#### Human Rights

- 11 There are no human rights issues or implications.

**Appendices** None

**Background Papers** None

**Richard Wilson**  
**Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services**