

CHRISTMAS PARKING 2018

Council - 24 July 2018

Report of Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services

Status: For Consideration

Also considered by: Direct and Trading Advisory Committee - 3 July 2018

Cabinet - 12 July 2018

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report requests that the Committee considers free concessionary parking on select dates at Christmas 2018.

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 John Strachan, Ext. 7310

Recommendation to Direct & Trading Advisory Committee: That the recommendation to Cabinet below be considered.

Recommendation to Cabinet: That

- a) Subject to consideration of any views of the Advisory committee, free parking be provided for two weekends leading up to Christmas, as detailed in paragraph 2 of the report; and
- b) Subject to recommendation (a) above, it be recommended to Council that the cost in terms of loss of income for free Christmas parking be met from Supplementary Estimates.

Recommendation to Council: That the cost in terms of lost income for any free Christmas Parking agreed above, be funded from Supplementary Estimates.

Reason for recommendation: To help encourage shoppers and other visitors to Sevenoaks and Westerham, in the busy shopping period leading up to Christmas 2018.

Introduction and Background

- 1 In previous years the Council has helped encourage shoppers and visitors to Sevenoaks and Westerham by giving free parking in car parks and on street parking bays on two Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.
- 2 Free parking is proposed over the two weekends leading up to Christmas in December 2018. With the exception of Blighs, town parking is free on Sundays. With the extension of charges in to Blighs Members are asked to consider free parking in this car park on the two Sundays before Christmas.

Location	Date
Sevenoaks	Saturday and Sunday 8 and 9 December 2018
	Saturday and Sunday 15 and 16 December 2018
Westerham	Saturday 8 December 2018 (Sundays free)
	Saturday 15 December 2018 (Sundays free)

- 3 Relaxing parking charges on weekends has no impact on Swanley or at Knockholt Station as charges only apply Monday to Friday.
- 4 This is regarded as being of particular importance in light of similar initiatives operated in other towns in neighbouring Districts.
- 5 Vehicles parking for free are still required to observe maximum periods of stay in car parks and on street.
- 6 Regular monitoring will endeavour to ensure compliance with the maximum stay periods in car parks and on-street, to ensure that space is not monopolised by all-day parking by shop workers.
- 7 Weekend free parking will be promoted for shop workers in the Council Offices staff car park accessed from Gordon Road.
- 8 As in previous years Senico Community Leisure whose 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

- 9 The estimated shortfall in income over the two days is estimated at £16,500.

Other Information

- 10 Members are advised that, as in previous years, the Council's Portfolio Holder for Direct and Trading has allowed free evening parking for Christmas Light and late night shopping events.

Location	Date
Sevenoaks	Friday 30 November 2018
Westerham	Friday 30 November 2018

Key Implications

Financial

- 11 Shortfall in parking income of £16,500 to be met from Supplementary Estimates.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

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

Equality Impacts

- 13 There is a low risk that the proposals in this report would have any implications under the Equality Act.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 14 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

- 15 There are no human rights issues or implications.

Appendices None

Background Papers None

Richard Wilson
Chief Officer Environmental and Operational Services