

## CHRISTMAS PARKING 2021

Cabinet - 11 November 2021

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer, Finance & Trading

**Status:** For Decision

**Also considered by:** Council - 16 November 2021

**Key Decision:** No

**Executive Summary:** This report requests that Council consider free concessionary parking on select dates in 2021 for off-street car parks.

**This report supports the Key Aim of:** Building on the District's thriving economy through the regeneration of our market towns, and by enhancing both the visitor and rural communities.

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Margot McArthur

**Contact Officer:** Adrian Rowbotham, Ext. 7153

Trevor Kennett, Ext. 7407

**Recommendation to Cabinet:** That

- a) free parking be provided for two weekends leading up to Christmas, as detailed in paragraph 2 of the report, be agreed; and
- b) subject to recommendation (a) above, it be recommended to Council that the cost in terms of loss of income for free parking be met from the supplementary estimates.

**Recommendation to Council:** That, the Council considers the view of Cabinet, and the cost in terms of loss of income for free parking be met from the 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 2021.

## Introduction

- 1 In previous years the Council has helped encourage shoppers and visitors to Sevenoaks and Westerham by giving free parking in off-street car parks on two Saturdays in the run up to Christmas.
- 2 Free parking proposed in all Sevenoaks town and Westerham off-street car parks on the two weekends (Saturdays only in Westerham) leading up to Christmas in December 2021 and free parking in Bligh's car park, which is the only charged car park on the two Sundays before Christmas.

Location	Date
Sevenoaks	Saturday & Sunday 11 and 12 December 2021
	Saturday & Sunday 18 and 19 December 2021
Westerham	Saturday 11 December 2021 (Sundays free)
	Saturday 18 December 2021 (Sundays free)

- 3 To help maintain parking turnover in Blighs over the two weekends, the maximum stay reduced from 4 to 3 hours.
- 4 Relaxing off-street parking charges on weekends has no impact on Swanley or at Knockholt Station as charges only apply Monday to Friday.
- 5 Vehicles parking are still required to observe maximum periods of stay in car parks. Regular monitoring will endeavour to ensure compliance with remaining parking restrictions to ensure that space is not monopolised by all-day parking. Weekend free parking in Sevenoaks promoted for shop workers using the Council's offices car park, accessed from Gordon Road.

## Key Implications

### Financial

Shortfall in parking income of £17,000 to be met from supplementary estimates.

### Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

Management of 'overstay' parking is difficult when there is no requirement for a ticket to be displayed or purchased, however enforcement monitoring will take place.

## Equality Assessment

There is low risk that the proposals in this report would have any implications under the Equality Act 2021.

**Appendices - None**

**Background Papers - None**

**Adrian Rowbotham**

Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer Finance & Trading