

BRIEFING REPORT - CHRISTMAS PARKING 2022

Council - 15 November 2022

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer - Finance & Trading

Status: For Decision

Also considered by: Portfolio Holder

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report requests that Council consider free concessionary parking on the selected date in 2022 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: Trevor Kennett, Ext. 7407

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Recommendation to Council: That

- a) 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 days leading up to Christmas 2022.

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 in the run up to Christmas.
- 2 Free parking proposed in all Sevenoaks town and Westerham off-street car parks on Saturday 17th December 2022 leading up to Christmas.
- 3 The only exception to the free off-street parking on the 17th December 2022 will be in Blighs car park, which will operate as normal with charging.
- 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 will operate as normal.

Key Implications

Financial

Shortfall in parking income of £5,000 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

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.

Net Zero Implications

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. The decisions recommended in this paper directly impact on this ambition. The impact has been reviewed and there will be an increase on carbon emissions produced in the district as a result of this decision.

The Net Zero 2030 Likely Impact Assessment of free Christmas parking shows a slight increase on emissions due to increased car use within our car parks over the proposed weekend.

Appendices - None

Background Papers - None

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer - Finance & Trading