

## **SUSPENSION OF PARKING CHARGES FOR 2 DAYS IN THE PERIOD LEADING UP TO CHRISTMAS**

### **1. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 For the last 3 years the Council has supported the national initiative "Small Business Saturday" by providing free parking. This year, Small Business Saturday is being held on 3 December 2016. In addition to this, in each of the last six years, town and parish councils have been given the option to nominate a day when car parking charges are suspended to support specific local events in the run-up to Christmas. This report seeks the approval of the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation to repeat these initiatives in 2016.

### **2. SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY – 3 DECEMBER 2016**

- 2.1 Small Business Saturday is a national initiative to encourage people to use and support local independent shops and business. The Council wish to support this initiative, as it did last year, by suspending car park charges during the event.

### **3. SUSPENSION OF PARKING CHARGES TO ASSIST LOCALLY ARRANGED EVENTS**

- 3.1 Virtually all neighbouring authorities offer some form of concessionary parking over Christmas.
- 3.2 All the larger Towns/Villages in the District have in the past arranged some form of Christmas event and requested free parking on that day to help promote the activity.

### **4. ENVIRONMENTAL, CRIME AND DISORDER AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report. The concession would however assist local businesses and support community events, which have general benefits for the area.

### **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The cost to the Council can be contained within existing budgets.

## 6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 Waiving parking charges for Small Business Saturday and when locally arranged Christmas events take place helps promote local business and maintain the viability of our towns and villages. Over the last 6 years the take up, by town and parish councils, of the offer of suspending parking charges to coincide with locally arranged Christmas events has been very high.

## 7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 That parking charges be suspended in all Council car parks on 3 December 2016 to celebrate Small Business Saturday; and
- 7.2 That the Council invite town and parish councils to nominate a day in the 4 week period immediately prior to Christmas Eve 2016 on which car parking charges will be suspended in their area.

## 8. PORTFOLIO HOLDER ENDORSEMENT

- 8.1 I agree to the recommendation above.

Signed: Cllr E J Heron

Dated: 20 October 2016

<b>For Further Information please contact:</b>  Rob Lane Streetscene Manager  Tel: 023 8028 5588 Email: Robert.Lane@nfdc.gov.uk	<b>Background Papers:</b>
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Date notification of this Decision given - 21 October 2016

Last date for call-in - 28 October 2016