

## Report of the Executive Director

**CHRISTMAS CAR PARKING CHARGES 2021**1. Purpose of report

To consider the cessation of parking charges in the majority of Council owned car parks over the Christmas period related to the aim of increasing footfall in Broxtowe's town centres.

2. Background

At the Council meeting held on 13 October 2021, a member question was received suggesting there should be a relaxation of parking charges over Christmas in order to assist local businesses and promote footfall in Broxtowe's town centres during the festive period. It is further suggested that removing limits on the amount of time car park users are charged for enables people to stay in the town centre longer as there is no pressing need for shoppers to return to their vehicles. The Leader responded to the question by stating that a report would be submitted to the appropriate committee.

3. Detail

In order to cease charging in the majority Broxtowe Pay & Display car parks between Saturday 18 December 2021 and 1 January 2022 motorists would have to be notified through a range of media. Signs would be erected to give start and finish dates and bags would need to be placed over the parking machines to prevent use and avoid misunderstandings around recommencement. It should be noted that the Beeston car parks at Technology Drive and Station Road are not being recommended for inclusion in the temporary cessation of charges.

4. Financial considerations

The associated costs and approximate loss of income related to the cessation of parking charges during the period are detailed in the appendix. However, the total cost to the Council would be approximately £13,200.

**Recommendation**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that appropriate arrangements regarding the cessation of charges in car parks over the Christmas period are delegated to the Head of Governance to enact as detailed in the report.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX 1

Further information

The following calculations are based on average December days prior to the pandemic and consider eleven parking days that would usually be charged for.

<b>Cost/loss of income</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Loss of income (tickets bought)	£7,700
Loss of Penalty Charge Notices income (five per day)	£2,500
Signage (including installation)	£3,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£13,200</b>

**APPENDIX 2**

Timescale and stages for the Consolidation parking places order 2020

Wednesday 25 September 2019	<b>Committee</b> approval to consult on proposal
Monday 30 September 2019	Statutory Consultation letters sent out (informal) documents online and in reception + site notice
Sunday 20 October 2019	Consultation deadline (21 days) Start preparing legal notices and adverts during this period.
Thursday 24 October 2019	Allow 3 weeks to modify documents following consultation and prepare Notice of Proposal documentation
Wednesday 13 November 2019	<b>Committee</b> consider the informal consultation responses (if any) and agree to publish formal Notice of Proposals
Monday 18 November 2019	Publish Notice of Proposals – site notices – mail shot letters – reception and council website publication, send letters to coincide with advert – and site notices
Monday 16 December 2019	Objection deadline (28 days) Start preparing legal notices and adverts to facilitate the notice of making prepare response for committee
Wednesday 22 January 2020	<b>Committee</b> consider any objections and agree to making of the order – leave 5 working days before acting on the committee’s decisions (i.e. before making the Order) to allow for possible call-ins of the decisions.
Friday 31 January 2020	Sealing of the order
Monday 3 February 2020	Publication of Notice of Making – site notices – mail shot letters, reception and council website publication + site notices.
Monday 16 March 2020	Order comes into force (6 weeks after order is made), car park signs erected or amended accordingly

The following provisos apply:

1. The above is an estimated timetable and is based upon the assumption that the implementation procedure runs smoothly with no unexpected delays.
2. Any substantial change made to an Order after the Notice of Proposals has been published may require the publication process to be repeated, adding a substantial number of weeks to the above process. This could occur, for instance, following the consideration of objections to the proposed Order by Committee.
3. Committee would be required to consider any objections raised against the proposed Order and respond to them. Time must be factored-in for this process. A delay in putting the report to Committee and acting on Committee's response could extend the timescale.
4. Any new Order is potentially subject to a challenge by application to the High Court during the 6 weeks following the making of the Order (this is reflected in the final stage above).
5. Under certain circumstances, which are unlikely to affect this Authority, a Public Inquiry is mandatory; otherwise, a Public Inquiry is at the discretion of the Local Authority. Were such an Inquiry deemed necessary, it would add substantially to the above estimate.

#### Variation of charges after they have been introduced

Once car parking charges have been introduced, the procedure for amending the charges is streamlined and does not require the detailed consultation and objection procedure set out above.

Amendments to car parking charges may be implemented by the publication of a 'Notice of Variation' in a local newspaper giving full details of the changes and when they will be brought into force. This must be accompanied by notices displayed in and around the relevant off-street parking places, which must be legibly displayed throughout the notice period.

The notice of variation must:

- Identify the date when it is to come into force;
- Identify every parking place to which the notice relates;
- Specify in each such parking place:
  - the charges payable for the use of the parking place at the date the notice is given'
  - the charges that will be payable when the notice comes into force.

A minimum notice period of 21 days is required.