

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Personnel Policy

Christmas Free Car Parking1. Purpose of Report

To consider the arrangements for free parking across the Borough over the Christmas period. This is in accordance with the corporate priority of 'Business Growth' to invest in our towns and out people.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the free 3-hour parking incentive for shoppers and visitors over the Christmas period be approved.

3. Detail

The Council has previously offered a free 3-hour parking incentive for shoppers and visitors in most of its car parks across the Borough during the Christmas period. It is proposed to offer a similar initiative in 2026 across Council owned car parks. The only exception would be the car parks at Technology Drive and Station Road in Beeston, which mainly serve train station users.

In designated car parks, ticket machines will issue free tickets for the first three hours, with normal charges applying after that period. This approach will allow Parking Services to continue to monitor usage and helps prevent commuters from taking advantage of all-day free parking. The Christmas period would run from 1 December until 31 December 2026.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it affects more than two wards.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Interim Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer were as follows:

There is currently no budgetary provision for free Christmas parking. In 2025/26, a similar free parking initiative saw a net reduction in fees and charges income of around £11,200, alongside a one-off cost of £2,100 to reconfigure the machines. A similar loss of income and additional cost in 2026/27 would be contained within existing budgets.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Head of Legal Services / Monitoring Officer were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not Applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not Applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

Not Applicable.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not Applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.