

Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Car Parking Christmas Charging 2020

Executive Councillor making the decision: Portfolio Holder for Car Parking and Planning – Cllr Mike Rigby

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Date of Decision: 27th November 2020

Details of decision: To suspend car parking charges on the three Saturdays leading up to Christmas for 2020 and Sunday 6th December in Dulverton as detailed below. There was insufficient time to take this decision through the normal democratic processes for this year as with previous years due to uncertainty with the second lockdown.

Free parking will apply:

- all day; from 00:00 to 23:59 on 5th, 12th, 19th December 2020 (subject to car park opening hours) in Minehead and West Somerset Car Parks.
- from 15:00 to 23:59 on 5th, 12th, 19th December 2020 (subject to car park opening hours) in Taunton Car Parks.
- all day from 00:00 to 23:59 on Sunday 6th December (subject to car park opening hours) in Dulverton Car Parks.

Reasons for proposed decision:

From the 5th November 2020, the Country went into a second legally enforced lockdown due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. As the local economy starts to rebound from the second lockdown there is a cost to the Council, but the opportunity to help economic stimulus is one that should not be lost. Free parking for the three Saturday's in the run up to Christmas with the aim of increasing footfall, dwell time and spend in our town centers.

This decision directly supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan objective of Economy and improving and regenerating our town centers.

Alternative funding options sourced:

None

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	N/a as district wide	

The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.

Finance implications	Yes	see notes below
Legal implications	Yes	see notes below
Links to corporate aims	Yes	see notes below
Climate and Sustainability implications	Yes	see notes below
Community Safety Implications	No	
Equalities Impact	No	
Safeguarding Implications		
Risk management	Yes	see notes below
Partnership implications	No	

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. No

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:

Name: Cllr Mike Rigby

Date: 27th November 2020

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication and the period for any call-in has expired.

Notes:

Links to Corporate Strategy – This decision directly supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan objective of Economy and improving and regenerating our town centers.

Finance / Resource Implications – The Coronavirus Pandemic lockdown and subsequent closing of town centres has impacted on the amount of car parking income that has come into the Council.

Car parking income for the periods of charging suspension have been estimated at £19,000.

Legal Implications - The Council has been following the guidance set out by the Government and Local Government Association in respect of managing car parking during the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Climate and Sustainability Implications - There has been a decrease in car journeys through lock down. The Council is alive to the implication of promoting measures that support car journeys, striving to move forward more sustainable forms of transport across the District. The time limited nature of this relaxation of charging is balanced with the economic benefit to the local community.