

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**CUSTOMER SERVICES, SPORT AND LEISURE
CABINET MEMBER**

EXTENSION OF FREE CAR PARKING

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To approve extensions to existing free car parking arrangements covering all council operated pay and display car parks in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 The matter is urgent in order to meet legal deadlines.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 A number of 'free parking' initiatives currently operate across North Lincolnshire. These include the first two hours free in all car parks, free after 2pm in the Parishes multi storey, free after 3pm in the Allanby Street car park and free all day on Saturdays.
- 2.2 The council has made financial provision in the approved budget to extend the availability of free parking. This latest proposal provides for the introduction of free parking in all council operated pay and display car parks on Sundays.

3. OPTION FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve the introduction of the revised free parking arrangements set out in paragraph 2.2 above to all existing pay and display car parks (including the Parishes).
- 3.2 Not implementing the proposal would be contrary to the stated ambition of the council.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Extending the availability of free parking should encourage more visits to our town centres and lead to more businesses opening on Sundays. This will result in an increased footfall to all the retail owners.
- 4.2 The changes to the 'pay and display' free parking initiatives would require changes to signage and software. It is therefore proposed that the changes take effect from Sunday 1 November 2015.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

5.1.1 At the full council budget meeting, monies were allocated in the approved 2014/18 budget plan to facilitate taking further free parking policies forward. A sum of £520,000 was approved for 2014/15 rising to £660,000 per year thereafter to cover income lost from ticket sales arising from the introduction of further initiatives. Officers will monitor the impacts of the changes with a view to making any necessary adjustments to these allocations via the periodic budget reviews that are considered by Cabinet during the financial year. This continues the council's commitment to investment in free car parking across North Lincolnshire.

5.1.2 There are no other immediate significant resource implications to highlight.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 Requests for more free parking in Scunthorpe have been received in the expectation that this will help local businesses and encourage them to invest.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the extension to existing free car parking arrangements, to free parking in all council operated pay and display car parks on Sundays with effect from Sunday 1 November 2015.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Approved council budget plan 2014/18 as agreed by full council on 25 February 2014