

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

EXTENDING 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 To enable the changes to take effect on 12 May 2014, an urgent decision is required to meet the deadlines of the statutory notice period for advertising and publicity.

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 in Brigg and Ashby, and selected car parks in Scunthorpe, free after 2pm in the Parishes multi storey and free after 3pm in the Allanby Street car park.
- 2.2 The Scunthorpe town centre agreement requires that any driver parking in the Parishes multi storey, and visiting the nearby cinema, is entitled to free parking after 2pm daily.
- 2.3 Councillors have publically announced plans to extend the availability of free parking. These include two hours free parking in all council operated pay and display car parks.
- 2.4 At the recent full council budget meeting, monies were allocated in the approved 2014/18 budget plan to facilitate taking this policy forward.

3. OPTION FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 To approve the introduction of the revised free parking arrangements set out in paragraph 2.3 above to all existing pay and display car parks (including the Parishes).

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Extending the availability of free parking should encourage more visits to our town centres.
- 4.2 The changes to the 'pay and display' free parking initiatives would require changes to signage and software and it is proposed that the changes take effect from Monday 12 May 2014.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

5.1.1 At the recent full council budget meeting, monies were allocated in the approved 2014/18 budget plan to facilitate taking this policy 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 changes proposed. 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.

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

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 No significant impact.

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.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That the Cabinet Member approves the extensions to existing free car parking arrangements covering all council operated pay and display car parks in North Lincolnshire as set out in 3.1 above.

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