

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

11 SEPTEMBER 2019

CLARIFICATION OF CHRISTMAS PARKING CONCESSIONS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to clarify the situation where there are 4 Sundays after the light switch-on that fall prior to Christmas.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The previous resolution on this issue, approved at the Economic Development Committee of October 2015, states that *“Christmas car parking concessions in Newark be approved. Such concessions to be on the four Sundays each year prior to Christmas”*. A problem arises when there are more Sundays after the light switch-on takes place. This happened last year and would do so again this year. Contrastingly, next year there will only be three Sundays in December before Christmas. The Economic Development Committee have approved on each occasion instances where 5 free Sundays are required due to the timing of the Christmas lights switch on. This reports seeks to regularise this convention moving forward to save a report each time this instance occurs.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The proposal is to update the resolution to remove the need for annual approvals in the circumstances set out above. The resolution is therefore to propose Christmas Car Parking concession in Newark be applied on the Sunday after the Christmas lights switch-on to continue on each Sunday before Christmas Day. This means the number of Sundays affected will vary from four to five depending upon the date the first Sunday after light switch-on falls. This is to be subject to a three year review unless the Town Council policy for the commencement of the light switch-on varies whereupon there will be a review. Light switch-on is currently the last Sunday in November.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 There are no equalities implications that have been identified.

5.0 Financial Implications – FIN19-20/8494

5.1 Where there are five Sunday concessions there will be an additional loss of revenue to consider, as only four weeks loss of income was budgeted for. Previously the 4 Sunday concessions have been approved. An additional Sunday parking concession will amount to a loss of approximately £2,500 including VAT for that additional day, based on data from 26 November to 24 December 2018.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 This concession assists the following objectives –

- Increase visits to the District

- Enhance and sustain the Town centre
- Generate more income in the wider centre, improve value for money and increase residents' satisfaction with the Council

7.0 Comments of Director

7.1 I fully support that free parking is provided over the festive period, supporting the vitality and viability of our town centres. In terms of 2019-20 the additional loss of car parking is estimated to cost £2,500 (including VAT) which will need to be funded from the general fund balance. The proposal to remove the need for Committee approval in a year where there are 5 instead of 4 days of concession will make the position clear and will be budgeted for accordingly for future years.

8.0 RECOMMENDATION

That this clarification of the parking concession be adopted.

Reason for Recommendation

This clarification enables both the 4 and 5 week parking concession for Sundays up to Christmas to operate without the necessity of an annual approval.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Steven Syddall on Ext 5385

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