

ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS CABINET BOARD

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF ENGINEERING AND TRANSPORT – D.W. GRIFFITHS

13TH NOVEMBER 2014

SECTION A– MATTER FOR DECISION

**WARD(S) AFFECTED: NEATH NORTH DIVISION
PORT TALBOT
PONTARDAWE**

CHRISTMAS CAR PARKING

Purpose of Report

To seek Members' approval for free Christmas 2014 car parking arrangements in Neath, Port Talbot, and Pontardawe town centres.

Background

Last year the Authority granted limited free parking for one week prior to Christmas.

It was agreed last year that the Council offer free car parking in Short Stay Car Parks only from 10.30 am onwards from Saturday 14th December 2013 to Tuesday, 24th December 2013 inclusive (it should be noted that parking charges still applied between 8.00am and 10.30am).

Parking charges were applied all day in the Long Stay Car Parks at Milland Road Neath, Station Road Port Talbot and the By Pass Car Park Pontardawe (Long Stay section) over this period.

However this year it is proposed to offer free car parking in all the authorities pay and display car parks as well as the pay on exit car park at Milland Road from Saturday 13th December 2014 to Wednesday 24th December inclusive.

Screening Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2010. After completing the assessment it has been determined that this function does not require an Equality Impact Assessment.

Financial Implications

Last year there was a loss of income of circa £15,000 income for the whole of Neath and Port Talbot CBC car parks.

Lost car park income has to be absorbed by the consolidated parking management account.

Consultation Outcome

No consultation is required under the constitution.

Sustainability Appraisal

A period of free parking is likely to attract increased numbers of Christmas shoppers thereby improving business turnover for traders.

Recommendation

It is recommended having due regard to the Equalities Impact Assessment screening, that free parking is implemented in Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe Pay and Display Car Parks and pay on exit car park for dates specified above.

Reasons For Proposed Decision

To encourage trading during the Christmas period.

List of Background Papers

Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form

Appendices

None

Officer Contact

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COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

CHRISTMAS CAR PARKING

(a) **Implementation of Decision**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call-in period.

(b) **Sustainability Appraisal**

Community Plan Impacts

Economic Prosperity	-	No Impact
Education and Lifelong Learning	-	No Impact
Better Health and Well Being	-	No Impact
Environment and Transport	-	No Impact
Crime and Disorder	-	No Impact

Other Impacts

Welsh Language	-	No Impact
Sustainable Development	-	No Impact
Equalities	-	No Impact
Social Inclusion	-	Positive

(c) **Consultation**

Consultation would be undertaken when the temporary order is advertised.