



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment, Regeneration & Streetscene Services Cabinet Board

2nd December 2022

Report of the Head of Engineering & Transport – David W. Griffiths

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

Neath North, Port Talbot & Pontardawe

Christmas Parking 2022

Purpose of the Report:

To seek Members' approval for the Christmas parking arrangements for 2022 in the Authority's town centres Pay & Display car parks (excluding The Gnoll, Afan Forest Park and Aberavon Seafront car parks).

Executive Summary:

The report sets out proposals to consider free Christmas car parking over the festive season for 2022.

Background:

It is acknowledged that our town centres and the traders who operate within them have been significantly affected during the pandemic with many experiencing a decline in trade opening. To support our town centre economy it is acknowledged that providing free Christmas car parking would further support their recovery.

Regular engagement has been undertaken with various traders within town centres across the county borough, and they have confirmed that free car parking in the run up to Christmas has been beneficial in the past

It was agreed last year that the Council offer free car parking in all the Authority's Pay & Display car parks from Saturday 11th December 2021 to Saturday 1st January 2022 inclusive.

It is proposed this year the Council offers free car parking from Saturday 10th December 2022 to Sunday 1st January 2023. Consideration to free car parking will be considered more holistically in future years.

The availability of free town centre carparking during the above period will be promoted through social media and via the display of signage within the relevant car parks.

Financial Impacts:

Free Christmas parking is estimated to cost circa £50,000 for the town centres' car parks this year, based upon the current tariff structure which has to be absorbed by the consolidated Parking Management Account.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

A first stage Impact Assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being

of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment, attached at Appendix A, has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required.

Valleys Communities Impacts:

No implications.

Workforce Impacts:

No implications.

Legal Impacts:

No implications.

Risk Management Impacts:

Any potential loss of income would need to be absorbed by the Parking Account.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendations:

It is recommended having due regard to the integrated impact screening assessment that:-

Free Christmas parking is approved in Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe Pay & Display car parks from Saturday 10th December 2022 to Sunday 1st January 2023 inclusive (excluding The Gnoll, Afan Forest Country Park and Aberavon Seafront car parks).

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To support our town centre economy it is acknowledged that providing free Christmas car parking would further support their recovery.

Implementation of Decision:

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

Appendices:

Appendix A - First Stage IIA

List of Background Papers:

None.

Officer Contact:

Steve Cook, Parking Manager
Tel. No: 01639 763968
Email: environment@npt.gov.uk