

CANNOCK CHASE COUNCIL

CABINET

16.NOVEMBER 2006

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND POLICY

CAR PARKING CHARGES DURING CHRISTMAS PERIOD, 2006

1. Purpose of Report.

- 1.1 To advise Members of a very recent application to the Council from District Traders Association's to suspend car park charges across the District on Saturdays 16 and 23 December, 2006.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet Members consider the request from Traders Association's and determine whether they wish to suspend car parking charges at any time leading up to Christmas.

3. Key Issues

- 3.1 Cannock Chase Council have a number of Pay and Display car parks in both Rugeley and Cannock Town Centres.
- 3.2 The District Traders Association's believe that suspending car park charges on the two main Saturdays before Christmas will assist in generating more visitors and increase the "foot fall" of shoppers to the town centres and assist the local economy.
- 3.3 The suspension of car park charges as stated in 2.1 above will result in a loss of income to the Council as stated in the financial applications of this report.

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Section 1

Background

Cannock Chase Council have undertaken Pay and Display charging in both Rugeley and Cannock Town Centres on Council owned car parks for some years.

Following a very recent application to the Council by District Traders Associations this report has been produced at short notice for Cabinet Members to consider. The reason for the tight timescale is that a decision is required of Cabinet before it next meets in December, 2006.

Section 2

Details of Matters to be Considered i.e. Options Considered, Outcome of Consultations etc.

Notices will need to be placed on each respective car park advising visitors that car park charges will be suspended on the dates stated in 2.1 of this report.

The Car Park Management Contractor will be advised of the Council's decision and no enforcement of non-payment of car park charges within the Council's Parking Order will be undertaken on these dates.

Section 3

Contribution to CHASE

A is for Access to Skills and economic development and effective car park management assists for local economy.

Section 4

Section 17 (Crime Prevention) Implications

There are no Section 17 (Crime Prevention) Implications arising in this report.

Section 5

Human Rights Act Implications

There are no Human Rights Act Implications arising in this report.

Section 6

Data Protection Act Implications

There are no Data Protection Act Implications arising in this report.

Section 7

Risk Management Implications

There are no Risk Management Implications arising in this report.

Section 8

Legal Implications

There are currently two (Off Street, Parking Places) Orders (made on 2 April 2000 and 1 April 2006) in force within the District. The Orders enable the Council to charge parking fees in relation to specified car parking areas falling within the District. The application of the Orders apply to the specified car parking areas and dates in respect of which suspension of the car parking charges is sought.

However, there is no restriction upon the Council suspending the application of the Parking Orders should it resolve to do so, however that would be subject to any issues identified in the Financial Implications.

The legal effect and validity of the Orders would not be undermined in the event that the recommendation is approved.

Section 9

Financial Implications

The proposal of free parking on the last two Saturday dates before Christmas 2006 are estimated to result in a loss of income of approximately £6000.

This free period may also raise public expectations that similar free parking periods will occur in future financial years.

Section 10

Human Resources Implications

Section 11

Conclusions