Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	
Thursday 5 November 2020	

Subject: Suspension of parking charges for Christmas Markets

Report by:	Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services
Contact Officer:	Ady Selby Assistant Director of Commercial and Operational Services ady.selby@west-lindsey.gov.uk
Purpose / Summary:	For Members to consider a request to suspend parking charges in Market Rasen and Gainsborough on days when Christmas Markets are held.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. **That Members resolve to suspend parking charges in Market Rasen on 5th December 2020.**

2. **That Members resolve to suspend parking charges in Gainsborough on 5th December 2020.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal: None

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report MUST be seen by the MO

Financial : FIN/97/21/TJB

There is a projected loss of income of £692 by suspending car parking charges on 5th December in both Market Rasen and Gainsborough, in support of the Christmas Markets. This pressure can be met from the Council's overall in year surplus.

Staffing : None

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights : None

Data Protection Implications : None

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities: None

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations: None

Health Implications: None

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

None.

Risk Assessment :

No risks identified

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes [ ]   **No** [x]

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes [ ]   **No** [x]

1 Introduction

1.1 The Council has received a request from Market Rasen Town Partnership to suspend car parking charges in Market Rasen on 5th December 2020, as a socially-distanced Market and Christmas shopping event is being organised on this day. It is considered that this gesture would be supported by local businesses and residents, as well as supporting publicity around the event.

1.2 Using data from 2019, Officers predict that suspending parking charges in Market Rasen on 5th December would result in a loss of income to the Council in the region of £83; this projection has been adjusted to allow for the current reduction in parking income due to Covid-19.

1.3 In addition, a two-day Christmas Market is being planned in Gainsborough on the weekend of 5th and 6th December. Members are also being asked to support a proposal to suspend car parking charges in Gainsborough on 5th December 2020. Free parking is already in place on Sundays, so there would be no impact on the 6th December.

1.4 Using data from 2019, Officers predict that suspending parking charges in Gainsborough on 5th December would result in a loss of income to the Council in the region of £609, this projection has been adjusted to allow for the current reduction in parking income due to Covid-19.

1.5 The Council continues to support Markets as part of the initiative to Re-open the High Street. Traders in Gainsborough on both the general and Farmers' Market will continue to benefit from free rent until the end of March 2021.

1.6 Traders and visitors are also supported through the work of the Market Team Manager, a Meet-and-Greet Officer and the Council's Environmental Health Officers.

1.7 A risk assessment for these functions is continually reviewed and there is a possibility of these events being cancelled, should the District's current Covid status change. In the event of either of the Markets being cancelled, parking charges will remain suspended on 5th December as there would be insufficient time to effectively communicate a change in policy.

1.8 For information, there will be no formal event in 2020 to switch on Christmas lights either in Marshall's Yard or Gainsborough Town Centre. Lights will still be in place, but an analysis of risk demonstrated social distancing would be too difficult to maintain, therefore the event was cancelled.