



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

**Thursday, 11 November
2021**

Subject: Free Parking for Christmas Markets

Report by:

Assistant Director of Finance and Property
Services and Section 151 Officer

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To consider the request for free parking in
council car parks to support Christmas events in
both Gainsborough and Market Rasen

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee accepts the recommendation from the Prosperous Communities Committee and approves free car parking on 11 December (Gainsborough) and 4 December (Market Rasen) when Christmas Events are to be held.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

There is a legal order which allows the council to charge for and enforce parking in its car parks. However, the council is at liberty to suspend charging should members decide it is appropriate to do so

Financial : FIN92/22/TJB

By approving the requests, it is likely that the resultant loss of income will be circa £800 - £1,000 which would need to be met from the General Fund.

The Gainsborough Christmas Event will generate additional income from stall rents as more stallholders are anticipated, however this will reduce the existing markets subsidy.

Staffing :

There will be some officer time taken up in the administration of suspending charging and promoting the free parking offer, but this would be absorbed during normal working hours

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights :

This report does not contain any proposal which may have any inequitable effects

Data Protection Implications :

N/A

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Approving the requests for free parking may encourage additional visitors and consequentially car usage within the town centre on these dates, increasing CO2 levels. Furthermore, there is increasing pressure on the council from public transport providers to increase parking tariffs and reduce the number of parking spaces, to encourage modal shift towards public transport

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

N/A

Health Implications:

N/A

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

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment :

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

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The council operate pay and display car parks in Gainsborough (7) and Market Rasen (3). Parking fees apply to the car parks Mon – Sat, 8am – 6pm.
- 1.2 The council are holding a Christmas market on Saturday 11th & Sunday 12th December. This will include stalls in Marshalls Yard, Market Street and the market place. It is proposed that WLDC waive parking charges in its car parks on Saturday 11th December.
- 1.3 Market Rasen Town Council will be holding its Christmas event on the evening of Friday 3rd December and on Saturday 4th December. This is also Small Business Saturday. Cllr Bierley has passed on a request from local traders that charges for parking in WLDC car parks in Market Rasen be waived on Saturday 4th December

2 Financial Implications

- 2.1 The income received in Gainsborough car parks on the second Saturday in December 2019 was £667 excluding VAT. Assuming that visitors are not deterred by the continuing risks to health from the pandemic, in view of the fact that there will be an event taking place, it is likely that visitor numbers would be higher. It would not be unreasonable to expect a 25% increase in numbers, based on observation of turnout during previous year's similar events meaning that the loss in income could be in the range between £667 to £834.
- 2.2 The income received at Market Rasen on the first Saturday in December 2019 was £125 excluding VAT. Using the same rationale as above, the loss in income could be in the range between £125 to £156

3 Recommendation from Prosperous Communities Committee

- 3.1 At the Prosperous Communities Committee of 2 November 2021, Members were asked to consider requests for free parking at both Christmas markets in Gainsborough on 11 December 2021 and Market Rasen on 4 December 2021. Members voted to support these requests and as such recommend to the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee for approval.