

**Subject:** CHARGES FOR PARKING DURING THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

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**Date:** 21 November 2017

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**Decision to be taken by:** Councillor Nigel Collor, Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing

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**Report of:** Roger Walton, Director of Environment and Corporate Assets

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**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Nigel Collor, Portfolio Holder for Access and Licensing

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**Decision Type:** Executive Key Decision

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**Call-in to be suspended:** No

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**Classification:** Unrestricted

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**Purpose of the report:** To provide support to local businesses, Dover District Council is proposing to offer free parking in its car parks for Small Business Saturday on 2 December 2017.

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**Recommendation:** To agree to the proposal to offer free parking in the Council's car parks, and in on-street charging areas, on Small Business Saturday on 2 December 2017.

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## 1. Summary

1.1 The report seeks to confirm the decision that, in order to provide support to local businesses, free car parking be offered in Dover District Council's car parks on Small Business Saturday on 2 December 2017.

## 2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Small Business Saturday is designed to raise the profile of small businesses across the UK. As part of the initiative, DDC will be offering free car parking in its off-street car parks on Saturday, 2 December 2017. With many DDC car parks located in the heart of town centres they are convenient for local shops. On-street parking charges will also be lifted. With many retailers now gearing up for the festive season, DDC wants more people to recognise the value, quality and choice that local, independent traders provide. DDC is hoping that other organisations and residents will support Small Business Saturday, and is encouraging businesses to think of creative ways to entice people to shop locally as part of the initiative.

2.2 It should be noted that parking charges will still apply in the Sainsbury's Car Park in Deal, and at the Co-op (St Ethelburga's and Park Street Car Parks) in Deal. All other parking restrictions, like yellow lines, will continue to be enforced throughout the district.

2.3 Parking charges over the remainder of the Christmas trading period will be unchanged.

## 3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1: To confirm the proposal to offer free parking in the Council's car parks and in on-street charging areas on Small Business Saturday on 2 December 2017.

This is the preferred option.

3.2 Option 2: To take no further action.

This option is not recommended for the reasons noted within the report.

4. **Resource Implications**

4.1 There will be a loss of parking income, which can be contained within existing budget forecasts.

5. **Corporate Implications**

5.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: Finance have been consulted and have nothing further to add. (VB)

5.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

5.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: 'This report does not specifically highlight any equalities implications. However, in discharging their responsibilities, Members are required to comply with the public sector duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>'.

6. **Appendices**

None.

7. **Background Papers**

None.

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