

**HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Cabinet  
8 October 2013

**Subject:** CHRISTMAS PARKING

**Northallerton, Stokesley, Bedale and Thirsk Wards  
Portfolio Holder for Customer Services and Asset Management: Councillor N Knapton**

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**1.0 PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND:**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval in connection with potential free parking at Christmas in the Council's car parks.

**2.0 FREE CHRISTMAS PARKING:**

2.1 In recent years the Council has offered free parking in all of its car parks between 3pm on Christmas Eve and 8am on 2 January. Some Councils offer some free parking in the run up to Christmas. There are a number of options for Hambleton, which include:-

- a number of set days during December (e.g., every Thursday – this is the option preferred by the local business community and the Federation of Small Businesses);
- a full week (e.g., the whole week preceding Christmas Eve) which would, in effect, provide a free two week period straddling Christmas.

2.2 Other options, including variations on the above, could be implemented.

**3.0 RISK ASSESSMENT:**

3.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

**4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

4.1 District wide free parking for the three Thursdays in December (5, 12 and 19) prior to Christmas would reduce the Council's net income by approximately £5,000.

4.2 A free week's parking in December might reduce net income by approximately £11,000.

4.3 These costs will be met from within existing budgets and incorporated fully into future annual budgets.

## **5.0 BUDGET OUTLOOK**

5.1 The effect on the budget outlook is as follows:-

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Base Budget	7,305,433	7,153,957	7,188,427
Christmas Parking Scheme	16,000	16,000	16,000
Revised Base Budget	7,321,433	7,169,957	7,204,427
Financial Strategy	7,403,147	7,338,225	7,271,681
Budget Surplus	81,714	168,268	67,254

## **6.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

6.1 There are no significant legal implications.

## **7.0 EQUALITY/DIVERSITY ISSUES**

7.1 Free parking may be of greater assistance to the elderly or the disabled who generally have fewer financial resources.

## **8.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

8.1 It is recommended that charges be waived in the Council's car parks during the whole of each Thursday during December and between 3pm on Christmas Eve and 8am on 2 January over the 2013 Christmas period and in future years.

MARTYN RICHARDS

**Background papers:** None

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