

**TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF OFF-STREET PARKING CHARGES FOR FESTIVE SEASON 2020**

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from Council for the suspension of off-street parking charges, across all areas of Argyll and Bute for the 2 week period 11 December 2020 to 24 December 2020.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 The Council agrees to suspend all off-street car parking charges across all areas of Argyll and Bute between 11 December 2020 and 24 December 2020.
- 2.2 The Council notes the proposal from Oban BIDS and agrees to the principle that an organisation or community group can pay the Council for additional days suspension of charging and this will be dealt with by the Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services.

**3. DETAIL**

- 3.1 Argyll and Bute Council operate a number of pay and display car parks. The council has received communication from Oban BIDS, Helensburgh Community Council and Dunoon presents with different requests in respect of suspension of festive car parking as follows:
- Oban BIDS: 28 November 2020 to 13 December 2020 and if successful in securing additional funding to pay for 14 December 2020 to 20 December 2020.
  - Helensburgh Community Council: 14 December 2020 to 24 December 2020.
  - Dunoon Presents: suspended for an indefinite period, but as a minimum until Christmas.
- 3.2 It is proposed that car park charging charges are suspended for a two week period up to and including Christmas Eve, from 11 December 2020 to 24 December 2020 across all Council areas.
- 3.3 Oban BIDS have confirmed that they were successful in securing grant funding and could pay the Council for additional days suspension of charging. The Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure will engage with Oban BIDS in this regard and arrangements will be based on no bottom line impact on the Council's revenue budget.
- 3.4 This year, more than ever, with the ongoing pandemic situation, it is hoped that the suspension of car parking charges will encourage residents to remain within Argyll and Bute and shop local.

3.5 The estimated loss in car parking revenue for the two week period is estimated to be approximately £20,000 however, it is considered that the suspension of charges is considered to provide an overall benefit to the local economy.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

4.1 This report seeks approval from Council for the suspension of off-street parking charges, across all areas of Argyll and Bute for the 2 week period 11 December 2020 to 24 December 2020.

#### **5. IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Policy – Temporary amendment to parking policy.

5.2 Financial – Loss of income from suspended car parking charges for the two weeks prior to Christmas is estimated to be approximately £20,000.

5.3 Legal – Notices will be displayed in Council car parks, advising of the suspension of charges.

5.4 HR – None.

5.5 Fairer Scotland Duty:

5.5.1 Equalities – None.

5.5.2 Socio-Economic Duty – None.

5.5.3 Islands Duty – None.

5.6 Risk – None.

5.7 Customer Service – Notices will be displayed in Council car parks, advising of the suspension of charges.

Kirsty Flanagan, Executive Director with responsibility for Roads and Infrastructure Services

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10 November 2020

For further information contact Jim Smith, Head of Roads and Infrastructure Tel: 01546 604324