

Report of the Corporate Director of Economy and Place

**Options for Changes to Parking Availability in the Southern City
Centre area for the Christmas Period**

Summary

1. The report is responding to a request from retailers to extending the opening of Piccadilly Car Park into the evening during the St Nicholas Fayre starting the 16th November, to encourage more people to stay longer in the city centre over this period. In addition any variation to the opening hours would provide better understanding of the impact of potential changes to the car park provision in this area of the city, as part of the Castle Gateway project.

Recommendations

2. That the Executive Member approves the extension of Piccadilly car park opening with the detailed arrangements for implementation to be delegated to the Corporate Director of Economy and Place.

Reason: To help increase the footfall during the late night opening of the St Nicholas Fayre and use the opportunity to test the use of Piccadilly for late night opening to help better inform the Castle Gateway project.

Background

3. With the increase in the duration of the St Nicholas Fayre running from the 16th November through until Christmas, retailers, through the York BID, believe that allowing changes to evening parking availability in the southern part of the city centre may increase footfall. The Christmas Market operates from 10:00 to 18:00 Sunday to Wednesday and 10:00 to 20:00 Thursday to Saturday.
4. The majority of the Council car parks in the area are available throughout the period but the closest car park to the city centre is

Piccadilly to the rear of the Coppergate Centre, which closes at 6pm, except for the occasional late night opening when it is requested by retailers.

Options

5. The Executive Member has two options to consider:
 - 1) Agree to an extension to the operation of the Piccadilly Car Park with the detailed arrangements delegated to Officers for implementation.
 - 2) Reject the request to extend the operation of the car park.

Analysis

6. Option 1 to agree to the request would encourage more visitors to extend their time in the city during the Christmas period leading to more activity in the city centre. It would compliment the increased Park & Ride provision during this period. This includes later operation on Thursdays from all sites and late evening services from the Designer Outlet and Monks Cross sites throughout the Christmas period. However while details for other travel options are provided on the iTravelYork website, this does impact on the Councils transport policy to encourage sustainable travel. In addition useful background data to inform the Castle Gateway project would be collected during the period.
7. Option 2 to reject the request would not utilise Council assets to maximise visitors to park in the city centre during the Christmas period; however this would be more inline with the Councils transport policy to encourage sustainable transport into the city centre and discourage non-essential car usage into the city centre.

Consultation

8. If approved Officers will work closely with retailers and the BID to ensure the successful implementation and undertake monitoring to assess the impact.

Corporate Strategy

9. The recommended option supports the Council's economic strategy as well as providing evidence to inform the Castle Gateway project.

Council Plan

10. This report is supportive of the following priorities in the Council plan in addition to the One Planet York principles the Council champions:
 - A focus on frontline services
 - A Council that listens to residents

Implications

11. The following are the only identified implications.
 - **Financial** – Officers will *ensure implementation arrangements and forecast budgets remain within existing approved budgets.*
 - **Human Resources (HR)** - There are no HR implications
 - **Equalities** - There are no equalities implications
 - **Legal** - Any decision to charge the standard evening rate would require a change in the Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that would state the council's intention to charge. If no charge for car parking is agreed then the TRO would not need amending.
 - **Crime and Disorder** - There are no Crime and Disorder implications
 - **Information Technology (IT)** – depending on which option was selected the parking ticket machines would need to be reprogrammed to take payment for the evening period.
 - **Property** - There are no property implications

Risk Management

Contact

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Chief Officer Responsible for the Report

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**Report
Approved**

Date 06.10.17

Wards Affected: Guildhall

All