

1st October, 2020.

Agenda Item: Additional Item

Decision Taken Under Delegated Authority – Car Parking Recovery Plan – Kirkcaldy Special Measures – 2020/21

Report by: Morag Ferguson, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Wards Affected: Ward 11

Purpose

To advise the Committee of a decision taken by the Executive Director, Enterprise & Environment, acting under delegated authority to extend the suspension of parking charges at The Postings Car Park until 1 November 2020, which is within the remit of the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Recommendation(s)

The Committee is asked to note the decision taken under delegated authority, to extend the suspension of parking charges at The Postings Car Park until 1 November 2020.

Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications arising from this report. Where the decision taken under delegated authority gave rise to resource implications, details of these are set out in the relevant report and were taken into account by the Executive Directors when considering this report.

Legal & Risk Implications

The Council's Standing Orders require that, when Executive Directors exercise their delegated authority in urgent or emergency situations, a note of the decisions taken in these circumstances is reported to the relevant Committee at its first possible meeting. This report fulfils that requirement for the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA is not required as this report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices.

Consultation

There has been no liaison with other services on the content of this report.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Council's Governance Documents provide that, 'An Executive Director is authorised to take such measures as may be required in emergency situations, or in cases of urgency, including during a vacation period, subject to advising the appropriate Convener and Vice-Convener, as soon as possible, and to reporting to the appropriate Committee as soon as possible thereafter, on any items for which Committee approval would normally be necessary. Where such measures involve the Council in incurring expenditure, then the Chief Executive and Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Services) should be advised' (List of Officer Powers, para. 2.1.1).

2.0 Issues and Options

- 2.1 The decision has been properly taken in accordance with delegated authority and is being advised to members for information and noting only. It is not anticipated that any further decisions will be taken under delegated powers, unless such a decision was needed as a matter of urgency and could not wait for the next scheduled meeting of the sub-Committee.

3.0 Conclusions

- 3.1 Members are asked to note that this decision has been properly taken in accordance with the Council's Governance Documents.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Report to submitted to Council Executive Team seeking delegated authority to extend the suspension of parking charges at The Posting car Park until 1st November 2020.

Background Papers

None.

Report Author

Helena Couperwhite

Committee Services Manager

Finance and Corporate Services - Fife House - Glenrothes

Telephone: 03451 55 55 55 Ext. 460105 – Email- helena.couperwhite@fife.gov.uk

Date: 2 September 2020

Agenda Item No.

Car Parking Recovery Plan – Kirkcaldy Special Measures – 2020/21

Report by: Derek Crowe, Senior Manager, Roads & Transportation Services

Wards Affected – Ward 11

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek delegated executive authority to extend the suspension of parking charges at The Postings Car Park until 1 November 2020.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that CET agree to:

1. Note that Kirkcaldy Area Committee will consider a report on 20 October 2020 on the Place Making / Parking pilot on options to support Town Centre recovery through the pilot project; and
2. Extend the suspension of the parking charges at The Postings car park until 1 November 2020 to allow enough time for the Area Committee to work with various services to develop and deliver any complementary recovery options.

Resource Implications

The projected losses due to Covid-19 on the Car and Lorry Parking Account for 2020/21 is currently estimated at £3.082m. All efforts are being made to mitigate these losses. The cost of suspending charges at The Postings was initially estimated at circa £37,000, however this is likely to increase if parking demand exceeds initially anticipated levels.

Legal & Risk Implications

There are no known legal or risk implications.

Impact Assessment

An EqIA has not been completed as this report does not propose a change or revision to existing policies and practices at this time.

Consultation

Finance, Economic Development and the Area Community Manager have been consulted in the preparation of this report. Consultation was undertaken with all members of the Kirkcaldy Area Committee, The Co-Leaders, Chair & Vice Chair of ETSP&T on the suspension of charges at The Postings Car Park and, from feedback, there has been general support to extend this until the end of the year. It was acknowledged that more time

is needed to properly consider any other options to support the town centre recovery within the current financial and economic climate.

1.0 Background

1.1 Following approval from CET, with support from the Members Stakeholder Group, normal parking charges and enforcement were re-started on 3 August 2020.

1.2 To show specific support to Kirkcaldy Town Centre, on 31 July, CET agreed to suspend the charges within The Postings Car Park for a further period until 31 August 2020.

1.3 The table below provides an indication of the potential financial impact of continuing to offer free parking at The Postings which equates to around £37,338 by the end of 2020. These figures are based on a modest level of demand within charged parking areas and an element of migration from nearby fee-paying car parks. The actual level of migration will be monitored as the initiative progresses.

The Postings Total monthly loss	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
	£5,948	£5,500	£5,694	£6,635	£13,560

1.4 In liaison with the Area Convener and Area Community Manager it was apparent that an adequate review, involving member input, could not be carried out in time to provide a report to the Kirkcaldy Area Committee on 8 September. It was then agreed with the Area Convener to bring a report to the committee meeting on 20 October 2020. Workshops with the various services and members of the Area Committee are being arranged to inform this report and seek members active input.

2.0 Issues

2.1 All town centres have been suffering badly due to the national lockdown and the sustained reduction in travelling, physical shopping and social/leisure activity. Kirkcaldy has been the worst hit of Fife's main town centres with at least a further 3 major retailers leaving the town during the Covid crisis. There is a case to sustain the special measures of targeted free parking in Kirkcaldy beyond 31 August when they are due to return to normal.

2.2 In the meantime, it is noted that the demand at The Postings car park has increased in response to the free parking during August. Further surveys are being carried out to establish the level of growth and/or migration and this will feed into the planned report to KAC.

2.3 In addition, the construction of The Postings Steps project is now complete, providing an improved access from the car park down to the High Street. Major works are ongoing at The Esplanade that reduces access to and availability of car

parking and it is seen as important to provide a free parking option at The Postings as an attractive alternative.

2.4 Whilst the Car Parking Account is in major deficit, the Area Committees have a devolved fund of £100,000 and the Kirkcaldy Area share (£28,000) can fund the cost of this special measure until 1 November 2020.

2.5 Now that the area committees are operating again, the success of this initiative will be considered by Kirkcaldy Area Committee on 20 October, as part of the wider review of the local place making and car parking pilot project. Members of the area committee will also look at other options including whether the free parking at The Postings will be further extended.

3.0 Conclusions

3.1 It is considered that there is a case to extend the special measure of free parking at The Postings car park until Sunday 1 November 2020 to provide support to the local town centre economic recovery and allow enough time for the Kirkcaldy Area Committee at their meeting on 20 October to review impacts and options including the possibility of a further extension.

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

Report Contacts:


Scott Blyth
Lead Consultant, Car Parking & Strategy & Operations
Bankhead Central
Mobile: 07908115731
Email: scott.blyth@fife.gov.uk

John Mitchell
Service Manager, Roads & Transportation Services
Bankhead Central
Mobile: 07803576163
Email: john.mitchell@fife.gov.uk

Signed by Keith Winter, Executive Director, Enterprise & Environment

Signature	
Date	September 2020

Signed by Eileen Rowand, Executive Director, Finance & Corporate Services

Signature	
Date	September 2020
Signed by Steve Grimmond, Chief Executive	
Signature	
Date	10 September 2020