

CAR PARKING, SUNDAY CHARGING IN DECEMBER	6th February 2018
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Infrastructure
Outcome	The Council will continuously examine and introduce ways to provide services in a more accessible and efficient way.
Lead Officer	Head of Capital Works, Energy & Infrastructure
Cost: (If applicable)	Revenue £2,140

Background

As part of Local Government Reform the Northern Ireland Executive agreed that the ownership of off-street car parks, their management and enforcement should transfer from the DRD to Councils on 1st April 2015.

As part of the transfer Council also inherited the authority to charge in The Mall and Abbey Street Car Parks on Sundays during November and December which is detailed within the Off Street Parking Order (N.I.) 2000.

Free car parking in the town was trialled in the run up to Christmas 2015 but this led to increased congestion, particularly in central areas as people stayed longer or staff parked up all day.

This adversely impacted on traffic flows around Coleraine and constrained the number of shoppers getting into the retail areas at peak times.

Council also received numerous complaints during December 2016 about vehicles parked out of bay causing obstruction in both Abbey Street and The Mall car parks.

In light of these complaints, charging during December as per previous years was implemented and our agency partners DFI were contacted and enforcement was requested.

The aim of charging was to encourage a turnover of parkers at locations closest to the retail core of the town centre (The Mall & Abbey Street) and long stay parking at the peripheral locations. Free parking was available in the other Coleraine Car

Parks, Long Commons, Railway Road, Railway Place, Waterside, and Millburn Road.

The aim of enforcement was primarily to ensure those parking done so in an appropriate manner within the markings of a bay and not to park inappropriately and cause an obstruction as in previous years.

The House Signs at the entrance to The Mall and Abbey Street Car Parks were previously erected by TNI/Roads Service in 2012 and clearly state that charges apply on Sundays during November and December.

Additional signage in Council colours and logo were placed beside each P&D machine in both Car Parks as well as on the entrances. The Council Website was also updated to reflect this. DFI Parking Enforcement Management Unit were consulted and were satisfied that adequate signage was in place.

Future provision December 2018

Officers will liaise with Town & Village Manager and have the subject of 'Future Christmas parking charges' discussed at future meetings with the Coleraine Town Team to gain their views on the subject.

Possible suggestions for December 2018 may include;

- Provide free parking on Sundays in December with or without enforcement.
- Charge for parking on Sundays during December based on the current tariff, with or without enforcement.
- Charge for parking on Sundays at a promotional tariff such as £1 for 5 hours parking.