



**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 4 DECEMBER 2018**

SUBJECT: FREE AFTER THREE

**BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR (ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
PLANNING & INFRASTRUCTURE)**

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Committee of the option to provide a Free After 3 parking scheme in December 2018.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section III (F) (17) of the Council's Scheme of Administration relating traffic management functions.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **Committee is asked to approve the provision of 'Free After 3' parking in the St Giles Centre Multi Storey Car Park from Saturday 8 December to Saturday 5 January 2018 (inclusive).**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 For the last three years Committee has approved a 'free after 3' scheme whereby parking in St Giles and Batchen Lane was uncharged after 3pm. In 2015 the parking machines were altered to issue a nil-value ticket so the quantum of use could be assessed. Following year 1 the findings of officers was that the scheme did not generate sufficient economic benefits to offset the financial impact to the Council to warrant maintaining the scheme on a permanent basis, although there was evidence of an increase in the number of people using the multi storey car parks as a result (report to this Committee on 8 March 2016, para 9 of the meeting minute refers).
- 3.2 In 2016 and 2017 the scheme was implemented for a four week period to support the promotion of Elgin as a shopping destination (meeting of this Committee on 15 November 2016, para 10 of the minute refers and para 7 of the minute of this Committee on 31 October 2017). In 2016 and 2017 the car park machines were not re-programmed to minimise costs of the scheme to Council, however, this means that there is no data available to demonstrate the impact of the scheme. Based on 2015, there is a direct cost in loss of car parking income in the region of £2,500. Consequently this report includes the additional expenditure warning given to Moray Council meeting of the 28 June 2018 (Para 5 of the minute refers).

- 3.3 In May of this year the revised parking charges came into effect, including the reduction of parking charges in the Batchen Lane multi-storey car park to £1 per day. This has significantly increased the occupancy of this car park, to over 75% (and up to 90%) based on the routine occupancy surveys. As a result of this, it is recommended that Batchen Lane car park is not included in a 'Free After 3' type promotion.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Plan and 10 Year Plan (Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP))

The proposals relate to the Corporate Plan priority of Sustainable Economic Development by promoting and developing infrastructure.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications.

(c) Financial implications

Given the losses identified in this report of £2,500 this report includes the additional expenditure warning. .

(d) Risk Implications

There are no material risks in relation to this proposal.

(e) Staffing Implications

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

(f) Property

There are no property implications.

(g) Equalities/Socio Economic Impact

There are no equalities implications and no material socio-economic impacts.

(h) Consultations

The Principal Accountant, Legal Services Manager – Property & Contracts, Equalities Officer, and Committee Services Officer (L Rowan) have been consulted and their comments incorporated into this report.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 Committee is asked to agree to a Free After 3 promotion for 2018.

Author of Report: Nicola Moss, Transportation Manager

Background Papers:

Ref: