

Public Document Pack

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EMERGENCY DELEGATED EXECUTIVE DECISION

In accordance with the Leaders decision and noted by Cabinet on 25/03/2020 to delegate to the Chief Executive any executive decision in this COVID 19 Global pandemic emergency or that is urgent or that would be necessary or expedient, or which would otherwise protect the Council's interests, including key decisions.

South Lakeland District Council

Emergency Delegated Executive Decision

Waiving Car Parking charges in the Westmorland Shopping Centre Car Park in Kendal for NHS and Primary care staff directly involved in the management and operation of the Vaccination Centre and for those members of the public attending the centre to receive their Vaccinations.

Date: 1st February 2021

Reference: 015

Reason for emergency

The Chief Executive received emergency delegated executive decision making powers on the 25th March 2020. It is considered that this decision is necessary or arises from the COVID 19 Global pandemic emergency. The matter is urgent, necessary and expedient and is needed to protect the Council's interests.

The decision is required to be taken due to support the national Covid19 Vaccination program roll out be as effective as possible..

This is a Key Decision N (**A key decision means an executive decision which, in relation to an executive function, has a significant effect on communities in two or more Wards of the Council and/or is likely to result in the Authority incurring expenditure or making savings above £100,000**)

Portfolio: Customer and Commercial Services and People Portfolio
Decision Maker: Chief Executive
Report Author: **Simon Rowley - Director of Customer and Commercial Services**
Wards: Kendal
Forward Plan: Not applicable

1.0 Expected Outcome and Reasons for Proposed Decision

1.1 As part of the National Covid Vaccination Program currently underway , a Mass Vaccination Centre has been established within the Westmorland Shopping Centre in Kendal , staffed by Local NHS and Primary Care Staff , which went live on 1st February 2021 .To support the staff involved in the management and operation of this critical centre, it is recommended that Car Parking Charges are waived for those directly involved in the

vaccination centres operation and those members of the community called to appointments to receive their Vaccination in the centre.

2.0 Proposed Decision

2.1 It is recommended that the Chief Executive:-

(1) Agrees to waive Westmorland Shopping Centre Car Park charges for those NHS and associated staff involved directly in the management and operation of the Mass Vaccination Centre within the Westmorland Shopping centre; and

(2) Agrees to waive the Westmorland Shopping Centre Car Park charges for those members of the public attending the Vaccination Centre to receive their Covid Vaccine.

Review Date:	10 September 2021
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3.0 Background and Proposals

3.1 On the 23rd March 2020 the Government introduced `lock down` measures across the country in response the Coronavirus pandemic.

On the 25th March 2020 Cabinet made a decision to no longer actively patrol, monitor or enforce within its public car parks, and placed signage on its pay and display machines to this effect. This decision was for an initial 3 weeks reviewable on the 13th April in line with the governments published review date on restrictions. Following the initial review date, no changes were made and the arrangements continued.

3.2 However in light of the Governments `Covid-19 Recovery Strategy`, released on the 11th May, entitled `Our Plan to Rebuild`, which included the lifting of travel restriction from those only in certain prescribed circumstances to a position of permitting “people may drive to outdoor open spaces irrespective of distance “ Consultation with partner organisations took place , and these partner organisations made decisions to recommence charging in their public car parks within the Lake District National Park boundaries commencing on the 15th May 2020. If we were to maintain the temporary free parking arrangements introduced on the 23rd March 2020 then there was significant risk of visitors choosing our free parking offer and the ability to manage social distancing would be severely compromised and Public Health Risks increased. The authority took the decision to reintroduce charging, patrols, monitoring and where considered absolutely necessary, enforcement on its car parks within the National park Boundaries only, from the 15th May 2020 , in line with other operators.

3.3 In line with the government’s advice regarding the reopening of non-essential retail premises on the 15th June , Cabinet agreed on the 24th June that car parking charges , patrols, monitoring and enforcement will recommence in all the authorities public car parks from the 15th June 2020.

3.4 Free parking for those on duty as an NHS staff member, health or social care worker, or NHS Volunteer Responder continued to be supported via special parking pass available from their employer.

3.6 Previous car park offers continued to be available to users including the early bird offers and reduced hourly rates and daily prices on some car parks, and the full range of permits.

3.7 As part of the National Covid Vaccination Program currently underway, a Mass Vaccination Centre has been established within the Westmorland Shopping Centre in Kendal , staffed by Local NHS and Primary Care Staff , which went live on 1st February 2021 .To support the staff involved in the management and operation of this critical centre, it is recommended that Car Parking Charges are waived for those directly involved in the vaccination centres operation and those members of the community called to appointments to receive their Vaccination in the centre.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 The Portfolio holder and Leader of the council have been consulted and are supportive of the proposals.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 Car Parking charges could continue to be levied on all car park users , however this is not recommended as it could deter some members of the community accessing essential vaccinations against Covid19. Additionally the effective functioning of the vaccination centres requires that Staff working within it can access parking within close proximity.

6.0 Links to Council Priorities

6.1 Health and Environment- Improving wellbeing and reducing disadvantage

7.0 Implications

Financial, Resources and Procurement

7.1 It is considered that the loss in Parking Revenue will be marginal .

Human Resources

7.2 There are no direct additional requirements on staffing .

Legal

7.3 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report

Health, Social, Economic and Environmental

7.4 Have you completed an Health, Social, Economic and Environmental Impact Assessment?
No

7.5 The National Covid19 Vaccination Program is an essential means, whereby we as a nation can arrest the continuing devastating effects of the pandemic , the decision to waive charging for NHS staff members and those from the primary care networks, that are working to deliver the vaccines from this centre supports the vaccine roll out, aids the recovery of our communities and protects lives.

Equality and Diversity

7.7 Have you completed an Equality Impact Analysis? No

7.8 The decision to waive parking charges as described will apply to all members of the public called to receive their vaccine at the centre.

Risk

Risk	Consequence	Controls required
To not waive charges for those key staff managing and operating the mass vaccination centre and those attending to receive their vaccines	Public are put off attending to receive their vaccines and associated staff impacted when undertaking this vital work.	Agree to the waiving of the car parking charges for those staff managing and operating the mass vaccination centre and those attending to receive their vaccines

Contact Officers

Sion Thomas – Operational Lead Delivery and Commercial Services

Simon Rowley – Director of Customer and Commercial Services

Background Documents Available

Name of Background document	Where it is available
Cabinet decision – CEX/117	https://democracy.southlakeland.gov.uk/mgAi.aspx?ID=19409
Approved by:	Signature and Date (or email confirmation)
Chief Executive	10.02.21
Or such person as delegated by the Chief Executive in writing	N/A
In consultation with	
The Leader of the Council	04.02.21
And Relevant Portfolio Holder	05.02.21
CMT Directors	N/A
The following interests were declared – disclosable pecuniary interest or other or none	N/A

<p><i>Due to COVID 19 and Government announcements , it has not been possible for this Key decision to be included in a Forward Plan at least 28 clear days before the decision was to be made. It is not possible to comply with the General Exemption procedure.</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution - Rules of Procedure – Access to Information Rules – Paragraph 16, the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Cllr Hughes) has agreed that the taking of the decision is urgent and could not reasonably be deferred because for the reasons outlined in this report and the timescales required to protect the public/business interest and to comply with Government advice.</i></p> <p><i>This being “special urgency”</i></p>	Yes
<p><i>In accordance with Part 4 of the Constitution – Rules of Procedure – Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules - paragraph 16(j), the Chairman of the Council (Cllr Coleman) agrees that this decision is reasonable in all the circumstances and that it is treated as urgent for the reasons outlined above and, therefore, the decision is exempt from call-in.</i></p>	Yes