

This report is public	
Response to Motion: Free Parking on Remembrance Sunday	
Committee	Executive
Date of Committee	3 March 2026
Portfolio Holder presenting the report	Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood Services, Cllr Ian Middleton,
Date Portfolio Holder agreed report	16 February 2026
Report of	Assistant Director Property, Mona Walsh

Purpose of report

To respond to the motion raised at Full Council in December 2025 requesting Executive to consider providing free car parking each year in Council owned and managed car parks on Remembrance Sunday.

1. Recommendations

The Executive resolves:

- 1.1 To provide free car parking each year in Council owned and managed car parks, except those at Castle Quay, on Remembrance Sunday.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The motion proposed at Full Council on 15 December 2025 by Councillor Donna Ford was as follows:

“This Council notes that Remembrance Sunday is a solemn national occasion when communities come together to honour the memory of all who have served and sacrificed to protect our freedoms and way of life.

Many residents depend on Council-operated car parks to attend such commemorations. At present, standard parking charges apply, meaning serving personnel, veterans, bereaved families, and other attendees may face unnecessary financial barriers when paying their respects.

This Council recognises the profound sacrifice made by our Armed Forces and considers that providing free parking on this day is a practical and meaningful gesture of support for the Armed Forces community.

The financial impact of suspending charges for one day is minimal, while the benefit to residents and veterans is significant.

This Council therefore resolves to:

1. Suspend parking charges in all Cherwell District Council-operated car parks on Remembrance Sunday each year, beginning from the next Remembrance

Sunday following this motion.

2. Publicise this measure in advance through the Council's communications channels to ensure residents are aware of the free-parking provision.

3. Work with local Royal British Legion branches, Armed Forces organisations, and town and parish councils to support attendance and ensure the policy benefits those it is intended to help."

- 2.2 Having been proposed, seconded and responded to by the Leader, the motion was referred to Executive.
- 2.3 Supporting the motion and providing free parking in council owned car parks (excluding Castle Quay) can be implemented and managed through usual BAU activities.
- 2.4 There is no budget provision for the loss of revenue arising, estimated at £4,500 - £5,000 excluding VAT and this will need to be met elsewhere within the service budget.

Implications & Impact Assessments

Implications	Commentary			
Finance	The loss of car parking income from the proposed free period will be offset by savings within the service as there is no budget provision for this arrangement. Joanne Kaye, Head of Finance, 10 February 2026			
Legal	The Council has the necessary powers to make the proposed TRO and legal services can assist with making the order. It is best practice to undertake an equality and accessibility assessment prior to making any such order and to clearly signpost/publicise any such changes. Denzil Turbevill, Head of Legal, 9 February 2026			
Risk Management	There are no risk implications arising as a direct consequence of this proposal. Celia Prado-Teeling, Performance Team Leader, 9 February 2026			
Impact Assessments	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equality Impact				N/A
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?	x			
B Will the proposed decision have an	x			

impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?				
Climate & Environmental Impact		x		N/A
ICT & Digital Impact		x		N/A
Data Impact		x		N/A
Procurement & subsidy				N/A
Council Priorities	Community Leadership			
Human Resources	N/A			
Property	Report is written by Assistant Director of Property and therefore no further comments are needed			
Consultation & Engagement	If agreed the measure will be publicised in advance through the Council's communications channels to ensure residents are aware of the free-parking provision. In addition, the Council will work with local Royal British Legion branches, Armed Forces organisations, and town and parish councils to support attendance and ensure the measure benefits those it is intended to help.			

Supporting Information

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council owns car parks in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Parking is free at all times in Kidlington due to a covenant on the land. This paper therefore considers the implications of agreeing free parking in Banbury and Bicester only.
- 3.2 Castle Quay is owned by the Council but managed and run separately and is not within the scope of the proposal in this report to provide free parking on Remembrance Sunday. There is adequate parking available elsewhere in Banbury to provide parking for those attending Remembrance Sunday services and events.
- 3.3 Providing free parking in Banbury and Bicester supports people travelling to those towns to attend Remembrance Sunday services and events. Remembrance Sunday is a national day of remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

4. Details

- 4.1 The Council owns car parks in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. Parking is free at all times in Kidlington due to a covenant on the land. This paper therefore considers the implications of agreeing free parking in Banbury and Bicester only.
- 4.2 Castle Quay is owned by the Council but managed and run separately and is not within the scope of the proposal in this report to provide free parking on Remembrance Sunday. There is adequate parking available elsewhere in Banbury to provide parking for those attending Remembrance Sunday services and events.
- 4.3 Remembrance Sunday is a national day of remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families. Parades and church services are held across the country. The Council already supports the day by making some car park area available free of charge for parade mustering at beginning/end of parade.
- 4.4 The Council is a signatory to the Armed Forces Covenant - a promise by the nation ensuring that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, and their families, are treated fairly. Agreeing free car parking on Remembrance Sunday each year in Council owned car parks supports the Armed Forces Covenant.
- 4.5 Agreeing free car parking on Remembrance Sunday each year in Council owned car parks can be implemented quite easily – there are limited practical implications. There are however budget and reputational implications.
- 4.6 There are no parking charges in Kidlington due to a covenant on the land. 2 hours free carparking is available in Pioneer Square Bicester daily. There is no free parking provision in Banbury council run car parks.
- 4.7 Lost revenue arising from providing free car parking in all Council owned car parks in Banbury (excluding Castle Quay) and Bicester on Remembrance Sunday would be c£4,500 - £5,000 excluding VAT. This shortfall would need to be provided elsewhere within the service budget. There will be some minor operational matters that need to be carried out to implement free parking but these are de minimus.
- 4.8 Publicising details of the scheme in advance can be managed without any additional resource by CDC Comms through planned BaU activities.
- 4.9 Work with local Royal British Legion branches, Armed Forces organisations, and town and parish councils to support attendance and ensure the policy benefits those it is intended to help can be managed without any additional resource by CDC Comms and the Councils Armed Covenant lead contact.
- 4.7 Offering free car parking in Council owned car parks each year on Remembrance Sunday supports the purpose and aims of the day.

5. Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 5.1 The following alternative option has been identified and rejected for the reasons as set out below.

Option 1:

Not supporting the motion could infer that the Council is not supportive of the wider purpose and aims of Remembrance Sunday.

6 Conclusion and Reasons for Recommendations

- 6.1 Provision of free car parking in council owned car parks (excl Castle Quay) supports Remembrance Sunday is a national day of remembrance to honour the service and sacrifice of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their families.

Decision Information

Key Decision	Yes
Subject to Call in	Yes
If not, why not subject to call in	N/A
Ward(s) Affected	All

Document Information

Appendices	
Appendix 1	None
Background Papers	None
Reference Papers	None
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Executive Director Approval (unless Executive Director or Statutory Officer report)	Ian Boll, Executive Director Regeneration and Growth