

Statement from the Maldon Business Board

The Maldon Business Board would like to confirm our unanimous support for the reinstatement of free parking days in the run up to Christmas. The proposal to provide 6 half days provides a good balance between supporting local businesses by removing the disincentive to visit the town and spreads the demand for parking over this important period. We would also request that adding a seventh half day on Christmas eve would further clarify the public message and also support last minute shoppers to choose local high street shops. The Board's members through their respective groups, representing the majority of independent business in the high street, will encourage all businesses to consider offering later opening hours to the public during this period.

We would also support trial amendments to the evening parking charges. Bringing this charging period forward will provide motivation to residents and visitors to visit the high street and we support the approach identified in the Central Area Master Plan to span the gap between the day time retail offer and the evening economy. Assuming this goes ahead, we will also support this be encouraging longer opening hours, perhaps on one evening a week as a starting point.

Allison Gray, Chairman of the Maldon Business Board and founder of Maldon High Street together