

Item 26

DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT

**SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S
LOCAL COMMITTEE IN SURREY HEATH.**

22nd July 2004

KEY ISSUE:

This report outlines the current position with regard to Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in Surrey Heath.

SUMMARY:

The Local Committee received a report in March last year outlining the requirements for DPE. A further report was presented on the 15 January 2004 detailing the latest position. This report further updates the Committee.

Following the Borough Council's Executive on 2 December 2003 confirming general support for a partnering arrangement to operate DPE, officer discussions have continued and beneficial progress has been made. Officer meetings have sought to clarify issues of detail with a copy of a draft agency agreement provided for discussion.

More recently, on the 15th June 2004 the Borough Council Executive formally resolved that they would be prepared to enter into an agency agreement for the operation of DPE and this is further detailed within the report. The County Council welcomes this decision.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Local Committee in Surrey Heath:

- i) welcomes the Borough Council decision to enter into an agency agreement to operate DPE in Surrey Heath and requests the Local Transportation Director to write to the Borough Council on the basis of the response outlined in paragraph 5; and,
- ii) delegates authority to the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee to work with the Borough Council to progress DPE within the District and in particular to negotiate the detail of the agency agreement,
- iii) delegates authority to the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee and relevant County Council and Borough Council Ward members to advertise Road Traffic Orders and Consolidation Orders as necessary to progress DPE within the District,
- iv) and subject to no objections being maintained the Orders be made, and
- v) the Local Transportation Director in consultation with the Chairman of the Local Committee resolve any objections received in connection with the Orders.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The Local Committee received a report in March last year outlining the requirements for DPE. A further report was presented on the 15 January 2004 detailing the latest position.
2. This report further updates the Committee and specifically relates to:
 - The progress made with regard to a partnering arrangement with the Borough Council to operate DPE via an agency agreement.
 - The DPE submission to the Dft and the employment of Scott Wilson to undertake work on the District's DPE procedures.
 - The review of waiting restrictions in the District.
 - The Implementation Programme & proposed commencement date.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Partnering Arrangements

3. Following the Borough Council's Executive on 2 December 2003 confirming general support for a partnering arrangement, officer discussions have continued and beneficial progress has been made. Officer meetings have sought to clarify issues of detail with a copy of a draft agency agreement provided for discussion. Furthermore, the Borough Council has also advertised during this time an invitation to supply its IT hardware and software to operate DPE.
4. On the 15th June 2004 the Borough Council Executive formally resolved that:
 - i) Surrey County Council be advised that the Council is prepared to enter into an agency agreement for the enforcement of decriminalised on-street parking, subject to being satisfied that:
 - a) the term of the agreement being five years, or two years with an option to extend by another three years on the basis that one years notice be given and that Surrey County Council agrees to cover all termination costs after two years;
 - b) Surrey County Council agrees to reimburse all reasonable costs expended by the Council, including a proportion of the project management costs involved in preparing for implementation, payable on a quarterly basis and subject to audited accounts; and
 - c) An implementation date of 1 September 2005, or such other agreed date, is achievable.
 - ii) subject to being satisfied with the responses of Surrey County Council in respect of (a) and (b) above, procedures are instigated for Stopping Up of Highway Orders in respect of the service areas in Camberley Town Centre
5. In response officers' recommend:
 - i) The County Council welcomes the Borough Council decision to enter into an agency agreement and makes the following comments to the points raised:
 - (a) The draft agency agreement drafted by Surrey suggests an initial term of 5 years with a review after two years of operation. By this time there

would be a better idea of the costs, income and effectiveness of the arrangements, perhaps leading to the creation of a partnership based agreement. The draft agency agreement also refers to termination costs, which the County Council agrees to underwrite.

- (b) The County Council agrees to reimburse all reasonable costs in preparing for DPE and will agree a contribution toward the Borough Council's project management.
- (c) The commencement date of 1st September 2005 is acceptable based on the current estimated programme. However, every attempt should be made to introduce DPE at the earliest opportunity should certain activities be identified, in due course, for early completion.

(ii) The County Council supports the Borough Council's application to 'stop up' the town centre service areas at its own cost. However, confirmation is required, detailing which legislation will be used for this purpose.

DPE Submission

- 6. Local Authority Circular 1/95 gives guidance and procedural information on the implementation of DPE outside of London. The Surrey Heath LTS has contracted Scott Wilson (Surrey's call off consultant) to provide support for this process. They will, along with LTS and Borough Council officers, develop Surrey Heath's submission to the Dft, prepare a financial model, develop a parking policy for approval by the Committee and generally assist with the DPE process to enable its introduction by the programme date. Scott Wilson has previous experience of this type of work having undertaken submissions in Mole Valley and Reigate and Banstead.

Review of Waiting Restrictions

- 7. As reported in January the review of waiting restrictions in the District has been completed. Engineer's from Surrey's Transportation Management Group have undertaken this work and a recent meeting has not highlighted any major problems with Surrey Heath's existing Traffic Orders. However, there are a number of small amendments to be made and also some signing and road markings require amendment and renewal. A separate report will be presented shortly to the Local Committee outlining these for approval.
- 8. Furthermore, since the introduction of the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions 2002 signs are no longer required to identify the restriction 'No Waiting at Any Time' (double yellow). During the DPE process these signs will be removed to help reduce sign clutter and reduce future demands on the District's aids to movement revenue budget.

Implementation Programme

- 9. A draft programme has been prepared and a September 2005 commencement date is achievable and realistic. During the next couple of months refinements to the programme will be made and this will identify whether an earlier commencement date could be achieved.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. The 2004/05 Capital 'start up' bid was included within the January Committee report on DPE and is replicated below. Due to the anticipated commencement date of 1st September 2005 these costs will now need to be adjusted across the financial years 2004/5 and 2005/06.

Operational Management <i>Accommodation, public relations, project management, traffic orders.</i>	£ 72,500
On Street Enforcement <i>Communication, transport, enforcement devices.</i>	£ 21,150
Off Street Enforcement <i>Communication, enforcement devices, signing.</i>	£ 14,250
Ticket & Permit Processing <i>Office equipment, IT software/Hardware, Consumables.</i>	£ 36,000
Total	£143,900

11. The Local Committee will also be required to continue it's funding from the District's local allocation budget in 2004/05 to help support the preparation of DPE.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

12. Surrey has embraced the concept of sustainable development, which is the foundation of Surrey's Local Transport Plan and is committed to the vision of making Surrey a better place. Funding from the integrated transport budget will be expended on projects and schemes in line with this vision whilst fulfilling its key commitments.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

13. Unless DPE is progressed then there will be no active enforcement of waiting restrictions and this will clearly lead to abuse of parking controls. Whilst the Surrey Police do not now undertake daily enforcement parking problems continue to be passed to Surrey Police where these exist or are reported by members of the public.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS: None