

## **Item 22**

### **BRACKNELL BOROUGH COUNCIL DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

### **SURREY COUNTY COUNCIL'S LOCAL COMMITTEE (SURREY HEATH)**

**21<sup>st</sup> July 2005**

#### **KEY ISSUE:**

To inform the Committee of the intention of Bracknell Forest Borough Council to implement Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE).

#### **SUMMARY:**

Bracknell Forest Borough Council have written to both Surrey County Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council as part of their consultations to implement and operate decriminalised parking enforcement. A letter of response has been sent to Bracknell Forest Council from both the Local Transportation Office and the Borough Council's Parking Manager.

#### **OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:**

The Local Committee in Surrey Heath is asked to note this report.

#### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. National policy on parking enforcement, the 1991 Road Traffic Act provides for Highway Authorities to apply to the Secretary of State to become Special Parking Areas / Permitted Parking Areas. Once an application is approved, the power to enforce on-street parking restrictions passes from the Police to the Highway Authority. Parking offences are then no longer classified as a criminal offence, hence the term Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE).
2. The Government has promoted the principle of DPE at every opportunity and the parking enforcement roll undertaken by the Police has seen a progressive reduction due to budgetary constraints. This has led to a number of police forces to press Authorities to implement DPE.

#### **ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

3. Bracknell Forest Borough Council have written to both Surrey County Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council as part of their consultations to implement and operate decriminalised parking enforcement. Their intended commencement date is currently April 2006.

4. There were no specific comments or points to make to the consultation and responses have been sent from both the Local Transportation Office and the Borough Council's Parking Manager.

#### **CONSULTATION**

5. During consultation for the implementation of DPE in Surrey Heath, Bracknell Forest Borough Council was consulted and similarly had no comments to make to our proposal.

#### **CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS**

6. With reduced enforcement by Police forces, Local Authorities are inevitably looking to invoke DPE powers. Unless this is done the reality will be limited or no active enforcement of some restrictions, which will clearly lead to abuse of parking controls, leading to traffic management and potential disorder problems.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Surrey Heath Local Committee is asked to note this report.

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**BACKGROUND PAPERS:** None

**Number of Annexes:** None