

Item 16

**DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT
IN SURREY HEATH
AGENCY AGREEMENT**

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

9th March 2006

KEY ISSUE:

To agree the terms of the Agency Agreement between Surrey County Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council relating to Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE).

SUMMARY:

To enable Surrey Heath Borough Council to undertake the management of on-street parking enforcement on behalf of the County Council, there needs to be an Agency Agreement between both parties.

This is a legal document stipulating exactly who is responsible for what services, and procedures to adopt in the event of an unrecoverable breakdown between both parties. It has evolved from earlier agreements with other Surrey Districts. A copy is attached as Annex A.

There are still a number of minor issues to resolve, which may require this agreement to be amended. Therefore, the copy annexed to this report is subject to further change. Should this be the case, and then an updated and final version will be circulated to the Committee at the meeting.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee (Surrey Heath) agrees the terms of the Agency Agreement as set out in Annex A and recommends approval to the Head of Transportation and Portfolio holder.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1. The Executive has approved a mechanism for entering into agency agreements with District Councils for the management of DPE on behalf of the County Council.
2. The Executive has delegated the approval of the Agency Agreement to the Head of Transportation and Portfolio Holder following agreement by the Local Committee.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

3. To enable Surrey Heath Borough Council to undertake the management of on-street parking enforcement on behalf of the County Council, there needs to be an Agency Agreement between both parties. This is a legal document stipulating exactly who is responsible for what services, and procedures to adopt in the event of an unrecoverable breakdown between both parties. It has evolved from earlier agreements with other Surrey Districts. A copy is attached as Annex A.
4. The Executive has approved that the County Council meet all capital and revenue start up costs and all agreed revenue costs for administering DPE on behalf of the County. For Surrey Heath this equates to two full time equivalent parking attendants solely for DPE. In practice the same parking attendants will enforce all restrictions.
5. The Agreement is for an initial period of five years, with a review planned after the second full financial year of operation (April 2008). The purpose is to examine the operational costs, income and effectiveness of operations. Assuming all is satisfactory, the intention is to agree an extension before the end of the fourth year of the five-year period.
6. The signing of the agency agreement is an essential requirement to facilitate the introduction of DPE within Surrey Heath. It is intended to protect the interests of both authorities, and enable an effective service for users of Surrey's highway network.

CONSULTATION

7. The legal departments of both authorities have approved the agreement. However, there are still a number of minor issues to resolve, which may require this agreement to be amended. Therefore, the copy annexed to this report is subject to further change. Should this be the case, then an updated and final version will be circulated to the Committee at the meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The Borough Council will manage separate accounts for DPE and Controlled Zones (CPZ). Any surplus or deficit for DPE will be managed centrally on a countywide basis. For Controlled Zones the budget is the responsibility of the Local Committee. The CPZ account is expected to operate at a small surplus.
9. Once DPE is operational, the maintenance of signs and lines directly related to the enforcement of DPE or CPZs will be the responsibility of the Borough Council. The cost of this activity is taken from the respective accounts prior to the calculation of any surplus or deficit.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

10. Through DPE regular and consistent enforcement should encourage a greater observance of restrictions thereby seeking to minimise contraventions.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

11. 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.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

12. Across the range of transportation issues and problems to be addressed the needs of all highway users require equal consideration. Proposals may benefit a particular group or individuals but it is important to consider and address how one impact may worsen others.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:	None
Number of Annexes:	1