

Item 32

CAMBERLEY CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE

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

26th July 2007

KEY ISSUE:

To advise members of the 2006/07 outturn in respect of the Camberley Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ).

SUMMARY:

Decriminalised parking powers are now operated throughout the whole of Surrey and the enforcement of parking and waiting restrictions in Surrey Heath has been undertaken by the Borough Council since 20th April 2006.

All income and expenditure for the enforcement of the 'limited waiting' parking places in the Camberley Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ account) is managed locally and budget responsibility falls to the Local Committee.

The outturn on the CPZ account in 2006/07 was a deficit of £18,312 but it is expected that a Controlled Parking Zone operate on a 'self financing' basis. Clearly a deficit budget cannot be sustained a second year running without preventative action being taken to ensure the long-term viability of the Controlled Zone. Options that should be reviewed are the consideration of introducing 'on street' parking charges, investigation of options to improve the efficiency of the patrolling and to increase the cost of all 'on street' parking permits with effect from September 2007.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Local Committee

- a. notes the 2006/07 outturn position and 2007/08 estimate for the Controlled Parking Zone account,
- b. agrees to review the patrolling efficiencies within the zone and explore the implications of introducing on street charging for parking.
- c. agrees the increases for all on street parking permits within the town centre and controlled parking zone as set out in the report.
- d. that the management of the CPZ budget be vested with the Local Highways Manager in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. Decriminalised parking powers are now operated throughout the whole of Surrey and the enforcement of parking and waiting restrictions in Surrey Heath has been undertaken by the Borough Council since 20th April 2006.
2. An agency agreement exists between the County Council and Surrey Heath Borough Council and details how parking enforcement is managed and funded. This was approved by the Local Committee at its meeting on the 9 March 2006.
3. Surrey is responsible for all on street parking whilst the Borough Council retains responsibility for off street parking. Two 'On Street' Parking accounts are managed by the Borough Council, a DPE account and a CPZ account.
4. With regard to income and expenditure relating solely to the enforcement of yellow lines (DPE account) then the budget is managed centrally within Surrey. This includes all yellow line enforcement including that within the Camberley Controlled Parking Zone.
5. All income and expenditure for the enforcement of the 'limited waiting' parking places in the Camberley Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ account) is managed locally and budget responsibility falls to the Local Committee. This was introduced throughout Surrey to enable Local Committee's to reinvest any surplus made on their CPZ parking accounts into transportation projects.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

2. The outturn on the CPZ account in 2006/07 was a deficit of £18,312. It is expected that a Controlled Parking Zone operates on a 'self financing' basis and a deficit outturn is clearly a concern.
3. The likelihood of a deficit outturn was predicted in September last year and measures were put in place to closely monitor income and expenditure on the account. A review of operations revealed:
 - a) The number of penalty charge notices (PCN) being issued were less than predicted although based upon previous data. This was considered due to the first few months, following introduction of DPE, where it was clear that more emphasis had been placed on yellow line enforcement. This was to assist with the 'common place' violations in the town centre that had accrued due to a lack of any enforcement in the preceding years.
 - b) The amount of on street parking places in the town centre had been reduced due to the impact of operations for the Atrium development. Parking places have had to be removed to enable construction of the development and this reduced the ratio of tickets issued. The impact of this reduction is greater than had been anticipated.
 - c) The amount of income received through resident & business permits was less than predicted despite these being based on previous data. Although not a direct impact on the CPZ deficit it was noted that the number of permits issued by Surrey Heath Borough Council within its off street car parks had also declined, indicating a trend or down turn.
 - d) Updated operating cost estimates over the original budget figures.

4. In September the deficit figure for 2006/07 had been estimated to be as much as £52,000. This figure later reduced to £32,000 following regular periods of income and an increase in the sale of remaining parking permits. The final outturn figure of £18,312 is as a result of consistent income levels over the remaining period and a reduction in the operational costs by the Borough Council.
5. The budget estimate for CPZ in 2007/08 is:
 - Operational Costs £159,860 (Salaries, premises, services, overheads etc)
 - Estimated Income £162,679 (PCN & Permit Income)
6. This predicts a surplus of £2,819 for the year but there remains a real risk that the CPZ account could still return a further deficit. Clearly a deficit budget cannot be sustained a second year running without preventative action being taken to ensure the long-term viability of the Controlled Zone.
7. Options that should be reviewed are:
 - a) The consideration of introducing 'on street' parking charges within the Controlled Zone. Some towns in Surrey with Controlled Zones operate on street parking charging as a means of covering the cost of enforcement. The scope of introducing this in Camberley and its implications should be investigated.
 - b) Investigate options to improve the efficiency of the patrolling within the Controlled Zone, i.e. to reduce the need for double visits by parking attendants.
 - c) Increase the cost of 'on street' parking permits with effect from September 2007. The cost of resident permits has not been increased since implementation of the Controlled Zone in 1999 and Business Permits have not increased since April 2006. The following increases are suggested:
 - On Street Business Permits - Increase to £1250 per annum from the current £1190 per annum.
 - Resident Parking Permit – Increase to £18 per annum from the current £12 per annum.

The increase is around 5% for business permits and represents a 5% increase year on year for resident permits.

CONSULTATION

4. Consultation has been undertaken with the Chairman and Vice Chairman regarding the Controlled Parking Zone budget.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5. Clearly a deficit outturn cannot be sustained. The £18,312 deficit from 2006/07 will need to be returned to a zero balance as soon as possible. A further deficit outturn on the budget could potentially compromise the viability of the Controlled Zone.
6. The amendment to the permit charges will incur advertising costs of approximately £1,000 although every effort will be made to undertake this in conjunction with other parking amendments. Future changes to the Controlled Zone may require capital investment.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

6. 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

7. There are no direct Crime and Disorder implications.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8. 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