



DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT

LOCAL COMMITTEE FOR WOKING 6 APRIL 2005

KEY ISSUE:

To update the Committee on the progress being made to introduce Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in Woking.

SUMMARY:

Funding for 3 additional Parking Attendants has been approved centrally. The financial model for DPE in Woking still suggests that more robust enforcement would be achieved and the deficit reduced by using 4 Parking Attendants. At the meeting of the Committee on January 19 2005, it was agreed in principal to fund a fourth attendant from local allocations. Woking Borough Council's Executive will make a decision on its funding on 7 April 2005.

Work is ongoing by County and Borough Officers to draw up an Agency Agreement acceptable to both Councils. This work will be finalised before the next meeting of the Committee, when it will need to be approved before being signed and sealed.

Some enforcement of double yellow lines is already being undertaken in Woking town centre by a Police Accredited Parking Officer, funded by Surrey County Council.

CONSULTATIONS:

Member Task Group – County and Borough Members, in association with County and Borough Officers. Surrey Police.

OFFICER RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.

INTRODUCTION and BACKGROUND

1. The Committee agreed at its meeting on 12 June 2003 to the establishment of a Member Task Group, with Officer participation, to oversee the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) in the Woking area.
2. At its meeting on 15 September 2004, the Member Task Group resolved to recommend to the Committee that a letter should be sent to the Leader of the County Council, Councillor Nick Skellett, requesting changes to the original proposals for DPE in the Borough, as outlined below. The Members of the Committee, at their meeting on 14 October 2004, approved the recommendation.
3. Surrey County Council has agreed to fund an additional 3 Parking Attendants for use in the Borough. The Member Task Group and Officers consider that 4 Parking Attendants would be needed for enforcement to be effective. The Committee for Woking, at its meeting on 19 January 2005 agreed, in principal, that its Members (Woking and Surrey) should seek to jointly fund a fourth Parking Attendant.
4. Officers are working to develop a single Agency Agreement which will incorporate and replace the existing Controlled Parking Zone Agreement and which will allow Woking Borough Council to administer DPE of behalf of Surrey County Council.

ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY

Agency Agreement

5. County and Borough Officers are working to draw up a single Agency Agreement that will allow Woking Borough Council to administer DPE on behalf of the County Council.
6. The implementation date stated in the Special Parking Area Application made to the Department for Transport is 25 July 2005. The Agency Agreement will need to be finalised, approved, signed and sealed before that date.
7. The Member Task Group will be convened before the date of the next meeting of the Committee on 18 July 2005, to satisfy itself that the Agency Agreement has been finalised. The Agreement will then be presented for approval to the Committee on 18 July 2005 and approval here would enable it to be signed and sealed before the 25 July 2005.
8. In order to allow Woking Borough Council's Parking Contractor to commence the recruitment of the additional Parking Attendants, it is intended to issue a letter from the LTS authorising this process to begin. This letter will be sent after the meeting of Woking Borough Council's Executive on 7 April 2005.

Number of Parking Attendants

9. A well-argued case for 4 additional Parking Attendants was made to the Executive Member for Transportation, Councillor Mrs Helyn Clack and this resulted in funding being made available for 3 Attendants.
10. Financial models suggest that 4 Parking Attendants would provide for more robust enforcement. At this Committee's meeting on 19 January 2005, it was resolved that a fourth Parking Attendant should be funded 50/50 with WBC and financed from Local Allocations, although this would be subject to funding approval from Woking Borough Council which could not be given at the meeting. This matter is due to be discussed at the Woking Borough Council Executive meeting on 7 April 2005 and it is expected that funding will be made available.

Provision of an interim Police Accredited Decriminalised Parking Officer

11. Since 21 February 2005, the Police Accredited Decriminalised Parking Officer has been enforcing those waiting restrictions in Woking town centre that have previously been enforced by Surrey Police.
12. In an 8 working day period of enforcement, 117 penalty charge notices were issued.

Special Parking Area Application to the Department for Transport

13. In order for Decriminalised Parking Enforcement to be introduced in Woking, a Special Parking Area (SPA) application to the Department for Transport (DfT) is required for a Designation Order to be made, conferring the necessary powers to enforce on Surrey County Council.
14. A draft application was made to DfT immediately before Christmas. The few comments that were made by DfT were used to modify the application and a final application was sent to DfT on 16 March 2005.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

15. The County Council's financial model for implementation and operation of DPE across the county showed no expectation of surpluses being generated following implementation of DPE. However, detailed financial models indicate that, in Woking, increasing the number of Parking Attendants will reduce the deficit.
16. An additional Parking Attendant, £25,000 funded jointly, will cost approximately £12,500 from Local Allocations.
17. The other costs of funding the interim Police Accredited Decriminalised Parking Officer will be met from the central DPE start up revenue budget and not from Local Allocations.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

18. Enforcement of existing and proposed waiting restrictions should reduce congestion and the dangers from illegally stopped vehicles, bringing benefits

to all highway users and the private and business communities. An increased number of Parking Attendants will ensure that this enforcement is far more visible and robust throughout the Borough.

CRIME & DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

19. Waiting and loading restrictions are provided to serve a transportation purpose on the highway network. Currently, enforcement of these restrictions by the Police is limited to key areas that generate concern. DPE, enforced by a sufficient number of Parking Attendants, should encourage greater observance of the restrictions thereby minimising potential illegal behaviour, as will the use of a Decriminalised Parking Officer.

EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

20. The enforcement of waiting and loading restrictions should assist those with mobility problems and help manage facilities for disabled parking.

CONCLUSIONS AND REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

21. Work on the Agency Agreement, that will allow Woking Borough Council to administer DPE on Surrey County Council's behalf, is progressing well. It will be finalised and, after having been agreed by the Member Task Group, be presented to the next meeting of the Committee for approval to be signed and sealed.
22. At its meeting on 19 January 2005, the Committee approved 50/50 funding of a fourth Parking Attendant from local allocations, subject to funding approval by Woking Borough Council's Executive.
23. It is anticipated that all outstanding actions will be resolved and agreed such that DPE can commence on 25 July 2005.

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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

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