



Report to Cabinet

Subject Introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

Date 21st April 2008

Author David Parton, Head of Direct Services

Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the current issues concerning Civil Parking Enforcement within the Borough.

To advise that these new arrangements will now come into effect from 12th May 2008.

1. Background

Following the Cabinet Meeting of Thursday 5th April 2007 it was resolved that:-

- i. The Council enters into a Civil Parking Enforcement Agreement on the terms and conditions outlined in the previous report.
- ii. The Head of Direct Services be authorised to sign the legal agreement on behalf of the Council.
- iii. The Head of Direct Services acts on behalf of the Council in all future operational matters to bring about the implementation and running of the scheme.

2. Current Position

- 2.1 The Partnership and service level agreements have been agreed with Nottinghamshire County Council and duly signed.

- 2.2 The Guidance [for the issuing and processing of Penalty Charge Notices] has been subject to County/District consultation and duly agreed.
- 2.3 Nottinghamshire County Council has received approval from the Secretary of State, and an Implementation date has been set for the 12th May 2008.
- 2.4 The Contracts have been let for the enforcement contractor, computer equipment/software and NCC are on target for the setting up of the Central processing unit.
- 2.5 Gedling Borough Council is on target to have the off street Car Parking Orders altered so they can be enforced under the new arrangements.
- 2.6 Nottinghamshire County Council is funding a Publicity campaign to ensure public awareness. Please see appendix 1 for the key facts being communicated.

5. Financial Implications













- 5.1 Nottinghamshire County Council's consultant (RTA Associates) has continued to develop the financial model to include recent changes in legislation and current good practice.
- 5.2 The latest version of the five-year model indicates that with good management and acceptance of the new regime by the public it is anticipated that an overall small annual surplus will still be possible.
- 5.3 Nottinghamshire County Council have agreed to not collect any deficit from the districts for the first five years thus allowing the Districts to offset the first years deficit against the four years surplus, leaving Gedling Borough Council with an estimated surplus of around £3,000.00 at the end of the five year period. This is lower than previously forecast predominantly due to the Governments recent changes in legislation and fixed penalty rates.

5. Recommendations

That the Members note the contents of this report and in particular that the scheme will commence in May 2008.

Civil Parking Enforcement

Key facts

-  Civil Parking Enforcement in Nottinghamshire will commence on 12th May 2008 when the County Council takes responsibility for on-street parking enforcement from the Police.
-  It will be operated by the Notts Parking Partnership which is a partnership of the County Council and the seven District and Borough Councils in Nottinghamshire (excluding the City).
-  The enforcement staff will be supplied by NCP services under a central contract with the County Council. The Districts and Boroughs will determine the hours of enforcement required under the terms of this contract and will employ Parking Managers to manage both on and off-street parking enforcement in their respective areas.
-  The County Council will process all Penalty Charge Notices (parking 'tickets') in a single processing centre employing up to 15 staff. This single centre will ensure a consistent approach is taken to deal with challenges and representations. A software system will be used which will link the processing centre with the District/Borough Councils and with the Enforcement Officers.
-  Disabled badge data will be incorporated into the central software to allow the efficient enforcement of disabled parking and permit use.
-  NCP Services are expected to employ approximately 20 Civil Enforcement Officers across the county area. Consequently, between 2 and 4 Officers can be expected in each District at any one time.
-  The Partnership has developed operational guidance on parking enforcement which ensures that issue of Penalty Charge Notices is done in accordance with national and local standards.
-  Money raised from the issue of Penalty Charge Notices will be used to pay for the enforcement and the processing costs. Any surplus must be reserved for spending on highway improvements.
-  Civil Parking Enforcement will mean significant traffic management improvements; reduced congestion, improved road safety, assistance for public transport access, and a greater availability of parking spaces(including disabled spaces) which will improve town centre vehicle 'turnover' and improve trading conditions.
-  As a consequence of Civil Parking Enforcement, the County Council will in the future be considering the introduction of new residents parking schemes to protect against any displaced parking. Parking patterns are to be monitored both before and after implementation in the main towns and urban areas.
-  In the future, the Partnership will be considering the enforcement of some moving traffic offences which will be permitted under national legislation.
-  For further information email civilparkingenforcement@nottsc.gov.uk.