



CABINET – 28TH FEBRUARY 2018

SUBJECT: DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING – STAGE 1 REPORT

REPORT BY: ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND SECTION 151 OFFICER

- 1.1 The report, which was presented to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee on 12th December 2017, asked Members to consider the outcomes from the options appraisal undertaken to date on the implications of taking on Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) Powers, and sought their views on how these findings should be developed further, in order to propose the most economical, effective and efficient service delivery model for the Council.
- 1.2 Members noted that, on 16th February 2017, Gwent Police confirmed in writing to all 5 Gwent Local Authorities that they intend “to withdraw its officers and staff from activities that involve enforcing parking restrictions” as of 1st April 2018. Gwent is the only area of Wales where the local authorities have not taken on Civil Parking Enforcement powers, and the communication from Gwent Police now forces the local authorities in the area to decide whether or not to take on these powers.
- 1.3 As a result, the five local authorities have subsequently commissioned a study to investigate the feasibility of creating a Civil Enforcement Area and Special Enforcement Area (CEA/SEA) across each administrative area and for the whole of Gwent. The resulting financial viability of these options shows a mixed picture across the five local authorities however, for CCBC it shows that all options can generate an annual surplus but are unlikely to generate enough income to cover the set up costs after 5 years. If Cabinet approve a decision to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement the relevant capital funding of £390k identified within the report will need to be made available to progress the works required to enable the relevant powers to be transferred to Caerphilly CBC. There are currently two number Engineering Services reserves in relation to the Sirhowy Enterprise Way maintenance contract and the winter maintenance contingency fund that contain approximately £800k that could be considered as funding options. An initial decision is required to progress the TRO review which is estimated at around £70k-£80k and the remaining funding could be considered within the stage 2 report that is to follow.
- 1.4 The report provided Members with details of the advantages of CCBC introducing CPE, which included control over where, when and how the parking in the county is controlled, thus enabling more flexible service provision where needed, the service could eventually become self-financing, improved compliance will be seen in permitted parking spaces and a reduction in congestion around amenities as drivers can find available space more easily. Some of the disadvantages included; based on the current free parking provision on and off-street across the County, any increased enforcement of parking restrictions would simply move the majority of vehicles to the off street areas that are available; the issue of physical violence after the start of CPE is also important to consider. In areas which have already adopted the powers, it has been found that Council CEOs are more prone to physical abuse and even attack than are Police personnel, so an excellent link to the police to request urgent assistance is essential.
- 1.5 The report provided details of collaboration in which, should CCBC decide to collaborate with the other Gwent local authorities to provide a joint service, for all the options considered in the financial models, an operational surplus is forecast for CCBC which increases with collaboration. This is not the case for all local authorities (whether operating individually or as

a Gwent region) and may influence their decision making on whether to collaborate or not.

- 1.6 It was noted that the current notification is that Gwent Police will withdraw from parking enforcement by April 2018. Even if a decision is taken now to adopt CPE powers, it would not be possible to have them in place and enforceable by April 2018. Discussions are ongoing with Gwent Police for them to delay any withdrawal of their services in relation to parking enforcement until the Gwent authorities are in a position to adopt the relevant powers if the authorities support the decision. Should the Gwent authorities not support taking on the powers of CPE, it is currently unknown whether Gwent Police would continue to support enforcement.
- 1.7 In reference to Community Safety Wardens, it was noted that some Authorities have expressed a wish that the CEOs have a dual role in that they enforce other aspects of street management such as litter dropping and dog fouling. The legislation governing the CEO precludes this dual enforcement role being undertaken simultaneously and it could also affect the financial predictions should the CEOs be doing something other than parking enforcement.
- 1.8 Members were asked to consider whether the Authority should take on CPE powers, and if so, should the Authority have direct operation control, offer a shared service or outsource provision
- 1.9 A Member raised concern that, should service provision be withdrawn from December 2017, what resources would be in place in order to provide a service. Officers explained that, following recent dialogue with Gwent Police, there is clear indication the service will not be withdrawn until 2018, Members were also asked to note that Gwent Authorities and Gwent Police have good working relationships and all will be done in order to ensure there is enforcement in place.
- 1.10 Following consideration and discussion, it was moved and seconded that the recommendation, as discussed at the meeting be approved. By a show of hands this was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED that for the reasons contained in the Officers report, the Scrutiny Committee recommended that Cabinet adopt the delivery model which would be best placed to serve the needs of the county borough and its citizens and seek a Gwent wide collaborative approach for the back-office arrangements and on-street Enforcement be undertaken within Caerphilly CBC.

- 1.11 Members are asked to consider the report and endorse the recommendations from Cabinet.

Author: C. Evans, Committee Services Officer, Democratic Services
Ext. 4210

Appendix: Report to Regeneration and Environment Scrutiny Committee dated 12th December 2017.