

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE – 2 DECEMBER 2014

REPORT BY EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

REDEPLOYMENT OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT BUDGET

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To secure agreement to the redeployment of an existing revenue budget.

RECOMMENDATION FOR EXECUTIVE: That:

(A)	the redeployment of an existing revenue budget be approved.
------------	--

1.0 Background

1.1 On 7 February 2012 the East Herts Executive agreed to extend its Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) powers to permit enforcement of specified parking contraventions using an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) equipped vehicle. Annual funding of £29,000 was agreed, effective from 2012/13 and an enforcement policy framework was agreed by the Executive on 4 December 2012.

2.0 Report

- 2.1 The agreed policy framework set out clear priorities for the deployment of the ANPR equipped vehicle as follows:
- Vehicles parked on school or zebra crossing zig-zags
 - Vehicles parked in restricted bus stops
 - Vehicles parked in contravention in an enforceable loading bay

- Vehicles parked in contravention on single or double yellow lines where loading or unloading is prohibited
 - Vehicles parked in contravention in resident permit parking areas
- 2.2 At around the same time as East Herts Council was preparing to introduce the ANPR equipped vehicle the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government made the first of several pronouncements on local authority parking enforcement which included a proposal to outlaw enforcement using ANPR cameras. The uncertainty generated by these comments led East Herts to suspend the implementation of its mobile, ANPR based enforcement service.
- 2.3 Government initiated a consultation on this and other parking policy proposals in 2013, the results of which were published in June 2014. The consultation appears to have led to a softening in the Government's position. Government now proposes to allow the following contraventions to be enforced using ANPR based parking enforcement and will seek to insert the necessary provisions in the Deregulation Bill, due to be enacted in late 2014
- Vehicles parked in restricted areas outside a school
 - Vehicles parked in contravention on a red route
 - Vehicles parked in contravention in a bus lane
 - Vehicles parked in contravention on a restricted bus stop or stand

Members will note that these are very similar to the purposes for which East Herts originally planned to use its ANPR based enforcement service from 2012/13.

- 2.4 The funding allocated for this service has remained in the parking budget since 2012/13 and is available to be spent when the legislative position becomes clear. Meanwhile, requests for enforcement of restricted areas outside schools (zig-zags) are received by the Parking Services team on a regular basis. Whilst school enforcement is incorporated in their beats, the limited number of Civil Enforcement Officers on duty and the many other demands on their time means that, realistically, each school can expect an enforcement visit once every three weeks at best.
- 2.5 Although it would not be as efficient as using an ANPR equipped vehicle, it is recommended that whilst the Council waits for the

legislative position to become clear the revenue funding currently being carried forward year on year is instead used to employ an additional Civil Enforcement Officer. Their primary role will be to visit as many schools as possible during the operational hours of their 'zig-zags' (typically between around 0800-0930, 1200-1400 and 1500-1700). Outside of these times the CEO would either be travelling, available to enforce other 'hot spot' locations or responding to public requests for enforcement, in line with Government policy.

- 2.6 The cost of employing a CEO plus scooter would be in the region of £26,000 per annum. A CEO plus car would cost in the region of £31,000 per annum. Although the latter would be £2,000 above the budget agreed in 2012/13, a car is recommended as this would enable continued delivery of the service during periods of inclement weather. The part year effect in 2014/15 should the officer plus car be recruited from January 2015 would be in the region of £7,750.
- 2.7 The attendance of this officer outside schools will be aimed primarily at securing compliance; however Penalty Charge Notices will be issued to motorists parked in contravention.
- 2.8 When Government's position with regard to parking enforcement using ANPR becomes settled, officers will move to adopt this form of enforcement in line with legislation and guidance. In the meantime or should Government still decide to ban ANPR-based parking enforcement, targeted enforcement of schools will continue using the additional Civil Enforcement Officer proposed in this report.
- 3.0 Implications/Consultations
- 3.1 In 2010 the Council adopted a Parking and Transport Strategy. In the process of formulating this strategy the Council used a survey in 'Link' magazine to ask all residents to give their parking enforcement priorities. Sixty-nine per cent of respondents identified safety around schools as their highest or second highest enforcement priority.
- 3.2 Additional information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

Contact Member: Councillor Paul Phillips – Executive Member for
Economic Development
paul.phillips@eastherts.gov.uk

Contact Officer: Neil Sloper – Head of Information, Customer and
Parking Services
Contact Tel No x 1611
neil.sloper@eastherts.gov.uk

Report Author: Andrew Pulham – Parking Manager
andrew.pulham@eastherts.gov