WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT COMMUNITY & CORPORATE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 30 AUGUST 2011

EXECUTIVE – 6 SEPTEMBER 2011

Title:

SCC PROPOSED INTRODUCTION OF ON-STREET PARKING CHARGES IN WAVERLEY

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr Carole King] [Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

At the Council Meeting of 19 July 2011 a motion was brought forward by Cllr Diane James, as follows:-

"As members will be aware Surrey County Council (SCC) proposes to introduce parking charging to areas in our 4 key towns where currently visitors and residents are able to park free of charge. Members may also be aware that certain Surrey areas have managed to achieve exemption from these plans thus protecting the business and economic health of the communities served. It is my view that Waverley should support its 4 key business areas in the same way and that a formal communication be sent to the Leader of SCC requesting that Cranleigh, Godalming, Farnham and Haslemere should be excluded from the parking charges introduction".

In response to this motion, and in accordance with Procedure Rule 12.3a, Council agreed to refer the matter via a Special Joint Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees on 30 August 2011, to the next scheduled meeting of the Executive on 6 September 2011.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

Concerns have been voiced in other boroughs and districts that Surrey County Council's proposals have the potential to impact upon the economic viability of local town and village centres. It is important that this Council scrutinises the proposals to ensure they do not have an adverse impact upon any of its corporate priorities; in particular 'Environment', 'Improving Lives' and 'Value for Money'.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

The introduction of on-street parking charges is likely to further disadvantage those residents least able to afford to park in our town and village centre car parks.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

There are no resource implications.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications.

Background

- 1. Throughout 2010 and early 2011, Surrey County Council carried out a detailed review of its on-street parking operation, with the stated aims of providing a better service for Surrey residents and tackling the ongoing operating loss in the management of on street parking.
- 2. A number of specific improvement areas were identified during that review; some of which have already been implemented (such as the fundamental changes which took place, and remain under review, to the County Council's on-street enforcement agency arrangements with the boroughs and districts).
- 3. A core element of the proposals, considered in detail in the SCC report to the Cabinet Member for Transport, dated 12 January 2011 (<u>Annexe 1</u>), is the phased, borough-by-borough introduction of on-street charging in selected town and village centres across the County, including Cranleigh, Farnham, Godalming and Haslemere in Waverley.
- 4. Following the decision of the Cabinet Member for Transport on 12 January 2011 to introduce charges for on street parking, the SCC Environment & Transportation Select Committee established an "On-Street Parking Task Group"; not to consider the policy itself, but to look at the detailed proposals and how these could be implemented in a manner more acceptable to residents. The Task Group put forward a number of recommendations in a report to the Environment & Transport Select Committee on 18 May, and to Cabinet on 24 May. This report (including Annexes relevant to Waverley, such as the Waverley Local Committee Consultation response and details of the proposed charging areas) is to be found at <u>Annexe 2</u>; and the Cabinet's response to the Task Group's recommendations is to be found at <u>Annexe 3</u>.
- 5. The issue will be considered again by the SCC Waverley Local Committee on 16 September 2011.

Proposed timetable for consultation and roll-out

6. For Waverley, the roll-out of the scheme was initially intended to commence in September, however, due to some slippage earlier in the programme, this now looks unlikely to happen- particularly bearing in mind the formal public consultation process which needs to precede any changes has not yet started in Waverley. Currently, with reference to Waverley, the SCC website states that; "Formal advertisement of on street charging proposals will be carried out in the near future. Notices will be placed in newspapers and put up on streets where charges are proposed. Detailed plans will be available on the County Council's website and at local libraries and civic offices. An online survey/response system will also be set up. Consultation responses and objections will be reviewed by Officers and County and Borough Councillors, who will prepare a joint recommendation to the Waverley Local Area Committee for consideration and vote on this recommendation".

Recommendation

The Executive is recommended to take into account any observations made at the Special Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 30 August 2011 and agree the response to the consultation to be passed to the Surrey Local Committee for consideration at its meeting on 16 September 2011.

Background Papers

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Rob Anderton Telephone: 01483 523411

E-mail: robert.anderton@waverley.gov.uk

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