

APPENDIX H

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT COMMUNITY & CORPORATE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 26 SEPTEMBER 2011

EXECUTIVE - 4 OCTOBER 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.

This matter was considered by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 30 August when their decision was to adjourn the meeting until 26 September to enable more information to be forthcoming. Any observations from the Joint Committee will be circulated separately.

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:

None

Legal Implications:

None

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 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.
5. The issue will be considered again by the SCC Waverley Local Committee on 16 September 2011 and the report is attached at Annexe 1.
[The maps referred to at Annexe 1 have already been circulated to all members and should be brought to the Joint O&S Meeting on 26 September and Executive on 4 October.]

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”.

Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 30 August 2011

7. The Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee did not consider that the response to their questions at the meeting on 30 August 2011 and the detail in the agenda papers was sufficient to enable them to make informed observations for the Executive to forward to the Waverley Area Local Committee for their meeting on 16 September 2011 when this issue would be discussed.

The Committee therefore agreed to adjourn the meeting to a date to be agreed and RESOLVED that the following observation be forwarded to the Executive at its meeting on 6 September 2011:

That due to the lack of information available to members a further meeting of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee be arranged when up to date details could be considered by the Committee and observations forwarded to the Executive on 4 October 2011.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Executive considers any observations made by the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee and agrees an appropriate response to be sent to Surrey County Council.

Background Papers

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

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