

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Health and Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **11 September 2018**

Report of: **Head of Environmental Health**

Subject: **Annual Update on Fareham Parking Enforcement Service**

SUMMARY

This report provides members of the Health and Public Protection Policy Development and Review Panel with an update on the last twelve months operation of the Fareham Parking Enforcement Service.

The Panel's views and comments are sought on the performance of the service and areas where improvements can be made.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Panel notes the content of the report.

INTRODUCTION

1. The Fareham Parking Enforcement Service covers the management and enforcement of both on and off-street parking throughout the Borough. The service aims to discourage indiscriminate parking that causes obstruction to other motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities. The service consists of two distinct areas:
 - a) Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) who are responsible for enforcing traffic regulation orders.
 - (b) The processing of parking penalty charge notices.
2. All CEOs are prominently identified as Fareham Borough Council employees and CEOs by their uniforms. In addition to their parking enforcement role, the CEOs report other enforcement related issues, such as abandoned vehicles, litter, fly-tipping, graffiti and vandalism, they also assist members of the public with general enquiries.
3. The Department of Planning and Regulation is responsible for the delivery of the Fareham Parking Enforcement Service, which falls within the Health and Public Protection Portfolio. The day to day management of the Service is done by the Head of Environmental Health. The service includes maintaining all of the Council's car parks, including all of the car parks equipment.
4. The performance of the service is closely monitored and an annual report, attached as Appendix A, is provided on the standards and costs of delivering the service. ***The Panel's views and comments are sought on the performance of the service, areas where improvements can be made as well as the actual content of the report.***

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

5. When decriminalised parking enforcement was introduced in April 2007, the objective was that it should be self-financing. As a result and as requested by Councillors the costs of the service are closely monitored. In order to better monitor the service the budget has been split between on and off street enforcement

On-street enforcement

6. The expenditure for on-street enforcement, in 2017/18, was budgeted to be £204,300. The actual cost of the service was approximately £233,650. Approximately £250,470 was generated from the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices (PCN's) and other charges. As a result approximately £16,800 was transferred to the on-street parking reserve to balance the cost of the service. Table 8 on page 25 of Appendix A provides more detailed information on the budget and costs for 2017/18.
7. It is important to note that the final deficit amount, which is covered by the on-street parking reserve, may be larger than reported. This is because the figures do not take into account unpaid PCNs.
8. The cost of on-street enforcement is closely monitored so that it does not become an unreasonable burden on council tax payers. The Head of Environmental Health provides regular updates to the Executive Portfolio Holder for Health and Public

Protection on this part of the service.

Agency Agreement for Civil Parking (On Street) – Fareham Borough

9. On the 9 February 2018 Hampshire County Council gave all of the Districts in Hampshire that undertake on-street enforcement under agreement on the County's behalf, notice of termination of that agreement. The current arrangements are set to terminate on 31 March 2020.
10. The County are considering standardising the approach to Residents Parking Schemes and also looking for opportunities to charge for Parking on the Highway, together with looking at all of the options for on-street enforcement going forward.
11. Since February, officers have been meeting with County colleagues in order to understand the implications for Fareham in relation to the various options for on-street Enforcement County are considering.
12. Once the County have decided how they want on-street enforcement to be carried out and the options/implications for Fareham are understood a further report would be presented to this panel and the Executive.

Off-street enforcement

13. In addition to ensuring that parking regulations are followed, employees working within the off-street car parks also check and maintain the pay and display and pay on foot equipment. There is also a control room within the Osborn Road Multi-Storey Car Park, which needs to be staffed, from where the pay on foot equipment is operated and controlled.
14. Off-street parking enforcement was budgeted to cost £206,200 in 2017/18. The actual cost of the service was around £250,738. A drop in the expected income, of around £3,700 has meant that the overall cost of the service has risen by nearly £45,000. Table 9 on page 25 of Appendix A provides more detailed information on the budget and costs for 2017/18.

RISK ASSESSMENT

15. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

16. Officers are constantly reviewing existing working arrangements and practices to ensure best use is made of resources; whilst ensuring a high quality service that enforces the regulations. The costs of providing the service, in particular on-street enforcement, are closely monitored to ensure it continues to deliver value for money.

Appendices:

Appendix A: Annual Parking Enforcement Report 2017/18

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Ian Rickman. (Ex 4773)