

LOCAL AREA FORUM BRIEF

Dear LAF Members

Subject: Parking Enforcement in Buckinghamshire

Parking Enforcement in Buckinghamshire

This briefing note has been prepared to inform Members of changes to the way on street parking enforcement is to be carried out in Buckinghamshire.

Parking enforcement in Wycombe, Chiltern and Aylesbury Vale was decriminalised a number of years ago – which passed the responsibility from the Police to the local Authority.

Currently the County Council has agreements with the three Districts that enable them to carry out the enforcement and ticket processing on our behalf within their own individual areas. They have carried this out in conjunction with their own off street car parking responsibilities for a number of years.

The financial model for Civil Parking Enforcement anticipated that a break even or surplus position will be reached over a period of five years, however this has not been the case to date in any of the three areas and county wide Civil Parking Enforcement is operating at an annual loss of over £500,000 which includes both the District and County deficits. The County Liability for 2009/10 was £189,000 and forecast to rise to over £200,000 in 2010/11

This loss clearly cannot be sustained and we, in consultation with the districts, have concluded that the only option is to bring the work back to the County Council and to manage the on-street parking in all three Districts under a countywide contract. This will bring economies of scale and ensure that the County is able to exercise greater control and management of the parking finances within the available budget. Savings will be made by having a single management structure and by being able to plan parking beat routes more efficiently. The principle has been adopted by other County Council's.

Transport for Buckinghamshire is now working towards putting out a contract to the private sector for on street parking enforcement within Aylesbury Vale Wycombe and Chiltern district areas. Tender documents are being prepared to invite bids from specialist private contractors.

A Cabinet Member Key decision report is being prepared and this will be published very shortly. Also, information reports are being presented to the current round of LAF meetings

.It should be noted that although the tender specification will indicate that off-street parking enforcement can be included at a later date there is no expectation by the County that off-street enforcement will be undertaken. However by including it in the tender documents it allows the Districts the opportunity to use the benefits of a single contract if they are looking to make their own efficiencies

Although a private contractor will be enforcing parking there will not be any targets or quotas. It is illegal to set these and so the public can be assured they will form no part of the contract.

There will be a single set of standards across the three Districts and priority will be focused on those areas where there are concerns that parking infringement is affecting safety and congestion.

It is intended to have the new contract in place by next summer.

Yours Sincerely

Jim Stevens
Head of Transport
Telephone 01296 382420
Email JStevens@buckscc.gov.uk