



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018/19

**PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY,
COMMUNITIES & PROSPERITY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

31st January 2019

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF
HIGHWAYS AND STREETCARE
SERVICES**

Agenda Item No: 5

CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to make Members of the Public Service Delivery, Communities & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee aware of the decision made by Cabinet on the 21st November 2018 in relation to Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the report which was presented to Cabinet on the 21st November 2018, (accessed [here](#)), and consider whether they wish to scrutinise any matters contained within the update from the Parking Services and Streetworks Manager in respect of the decision taken by Cabinet.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 21st November 2018, Cabinet considered the report of the Group Director, Corporate and Frontline Services which sought approval for the Council to provide civil parking enforcement back-office Penalty Charge Notice (PCN) processing functions on behalf of additional Local Authorities across South Wales, as well as

providing a brief update with regards to the Council's mobile camera parking enforcement service.

- 3.2. A copy of the decision taken by Cabinet at its meeting held on the 21st November 2018 in response to the report's recommendations can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

4. UPDATE / CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Councils in the former Gwent region, (Caerphilly CBC, Newport CC, Torfaen CBC, Monmouthshire CBC and Blaenau Gwent CBC), have all resolved to apply CPE powers across their individual County Boroughs, with some commencing enforcement operations from as soon as April 2019. However, not only have all the Council's agreed to pursue an external back-office processing solution, but they have also all expressed a desire to join the South Wales Parking Group, (SWPG), collaboration whereby by RCT undertake such work on behalf of, currently, Merthyr Tydfil CBC.
- 4.2 Discussions between all parties have taken place via a number of joint meetings and, additionally, the Council has been mentoring and guiding each of the Councils listed above, individually, through the process of applying for CPE powers, with all now signed-up in principal to an over-arching Service Level Agreement expanding the SWPG to 7 Local Authorities.
- 4.3 Latest indications from the former Gwent Authorities suggest that Caerphilly CBC, Newport CC and Monmouthshire CBC will be commencing CPE enforcement operations from April 2019, with Torfaen CBC and Blaenau Gwent CBC following suit later in the year.
- 4.4 Following Cabinet approval to pursue a mobile camera parking enforcement solution in October 2017, the Council successfully procured a new enforcement vehicle, which is fully equipped with an Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera, utilising cutting edge infra-red technology to capture clearly defined images of vehicles parking unlawfully outside our schools, in bus stops and on pedestrian crossings.
- 4.5 Formal approval from the Welsh Government was subsequently obtained in June 2018 and the Council was duly permitted to use a so-called "approved device" for parking enforcement operations.
- 4.6 In addition, following a presentation to Full Council in July 2018, which outlined that the new service would be active from the start of the 2018/19 academic year in September 2018, a communications / public relations campaign has been ongoing since, with numerous positive messages of support being received by the Council.
- 4.7 Preliminary data for the 4 months from September 2018 up until the end of December 2018 indicates that 1,765 PCNs were issued to unlawfully parked

vehicles using evidence gathered from the mobile camera enforcement vehicle. (Motorists observed parking unlawfully were issued with formal warning Notices for the first 2 weeks, with PCNs only being issued from the third week of operation. Over this period, 172 warning Notices were initially issued).

5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no negative or adverse equality or diversity implications associated with this report.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 7.1 A detailed financial analysis of the administrative tasks undertaken with respect to the processing of PCNs has helped to inform a SLA offer to all participating Local Authorities. The operation of the SLA will be kept under review as part of implementing the new arrangements, but all costs are expected to be fully met by the additional income generated.
- 7.2 A centralised arrangement of this type will lead to a reduction in administrative costs. For example, the cost of procuring the requisite software licences, consumables and even uniforms are all expected to be reduced, in some cases significantly, after negotiations with suppliers.
- 7.3 In terms of resource requirements, the Council has purchased an updated software system as part of work to set-up the aforementioned mobile parking enforcement solution, which will allow for the expected increase in workload. It will however need to appoint additional staffing resources to ensure that capacity exists for the expanded service and two additional posts within Highways and Streetcare are required. It is likely that a review of the management arrangements will result in additional costs, but these will be offset against the income from the additional back office functions.
- 7.4 Specifically in relation to income with respect to the Council's fledgling mobile camera enforcement service, it is currently anticipated that all costs will be fully met by the additional income generated.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 8.1 The Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA 2004): The Secretary of State's Statutory Guidance to Local Authorities on the Civil Enforcement of Parking Contraventions prescribes that back-office PCN processing functions can be contracted out, (albeit

decisions with regard to formal representations cannot).

- 8.2 Local Authorities have a duty to tackle dangerous parking and the TMA 2004 duly confers responsibilities upon Local Authorities with Civil Enforcement Area status to enforce civil parking contraventions accordingly.
- 8.3 In Wales, such contraventions are enforced under the auspices of The Civil Enforcement of Road Traffic Contraventions (General Provisions) (Wales) Regulations 2013, with the Welsh Government further legislating for the enforcement of parking contraventions by “approved devices” under the terms of The Civil Enforcement of Parking Restrictions (Approved Devices) (Wales) Order 2013.

9. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL’S CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP

- 9.1 The expansion of a regional collaboration to efficiently process PCN will help to deliver a greater consistency of parking enforcement practices across the region and, as such, can be seen to contribute the delivery of the Council’s Corporate Priorities with respect to the theme of “place”: creating neighbourhoods where people are proud to live and work by making Rhondda Cynon Taf’s local environment clean and attractive.
- 9.2 This report has considered the potential long-term impact of collaborating with other Local Authorities to provide a more sustainable PCN processing function, with a clear responsibility for the Council to guide and inform other Local Authorities as to their own policies and procedures to help ensure fair standards of parking enforcement across a wide area.
- 9.3 With the aim of balancing the business needs of all Local Authorities, whilst helping to alleviate the problems caused by inconsiderate and dangerous parking practices, the Council can be seen to be collaborating with others to consider the needs of all users of the Highway.
- 9.4 The mobile camera parking enforcement measures outlined in this report will help to improve traffic flow and road safety, improve public transport reliability and reduce parking problems in town centres, residential areas and, particularly, outside our schools. The creation of safe walking environments outside schools is also likely to lead to healthier lifestyles.
- 9.5 An expanded partnership between a number of Local Authorities across south-east Wales, which shares common aspirations, best practice and consistency of service provision, will help support the delivery of a Wales of cohesive communities, a prosperous Wales and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.

10. CONCLUSION

- 10.1 The CPE Service ensures that Traffic Regulation Orders are better enforced, which maintains the highways in a condition that are free of vehicles which would otherwise be restricting the traffic flow and thus the highways would be better able to undertake their primary purpose of the unrestricted passage of vehicles in a safe manner.
- 10.2 The former Gwent Authorities will be implementing their own CPE operations from April 2019 and have signed-up in principal to RCT undertaking back-office PCN processing duties on their collective behalf. Combined with the work RCT also does for Merthyr Tydfil CBC in this regard, RCT is positioned to establish itself as a regional parking ticket processing hub.
- 10.3 All residents benefit from the services provided via the safe use of the highway and the introduction and subsequent development of the Service via the purchase and operation of a bespoke mobile camera parking enforcement vehicle has extended the Council's capability to tackle key enforcement priorities such as dangerous and unlawful parking outside schools, on pedestrian crossings and in bus stops.