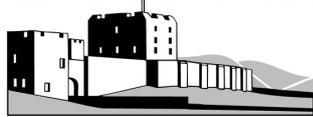


CARLISLE
CITY COUNCIL



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ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

Panel Report

Public

Date of Meeting: 8th September 2011

Title: PARKING CONNECT UPDATE

Report of: The Assistant Director Local Environment

Report reference:

Summary: This report provides an update on progress on Parking Connect and on-street car parking enforcement.

Questions for / input required from Scrutiny:

Note the content of the report and lend support to the revised proposal to Cumbria County Council.

Recommendations:

The Panel is asked to consider the latest proposal to the County Council as set out below;

In 2010/11, the operation of the on-street enforcement service by Carlisle was shown to be largely self-financing within Carlisle, providing that the Residents Parking Permit scheme is subsidised. As an alternative to Parking Connect, Carlisle City Council proposes a revised Agency Agreement with the County Council for Carlisle and potentially Eden which removes the Resident Parking Scheme from the Agreement but continues with the on-street enforcement element of the service.

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

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1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

Carlisle City Council has been working with the County Council on a business model to deliver an on-street car parking enforcement across the County. Last November, the City Council put forward a business case proposal to the County Council that set out in a model, the costs and income for on street car parking enforcement across the County. The model was flexible to allow incremental increases in service provision and included off street enforcement where desired by District Councils. This was the Parking Connect proposal.

Since May 2011 County Officers have met with City Council officers to explore a further reduction in costs and services to meet County Council budget requirements of a reduction to a total deficit of less than £246,000. This figure is the current level of subsidy provided by the County Council to some of the District Councils that are now out of their Agency Agreement. However, this figure does not cover the total deficit sitting on District Council accounts that are still in the Agency Agreement. The City Council estimate that the actual deficit is around £600,000, and the Parking Connect business model reduces this to around £400,000.

The expectation by the County that Carlisle City Council provides a business model that delivers less than £246,000 deficit with no additional income streams is not realistic and despite many meetings and negotiations between County and City Council Officers in recent months, it has not been possible to find a proposal that is acceptable to both parties.

The County Council took a report to Cumbria Chief Executives which effectively abandoned the Parking Connect proposal and instead proposed to bring the service in-house to the County Council in a “minimal” parking model. This proposal provides significantly reduced car parking enforcement officers than Parking Connect.

2. CONSULTATION

Carlisle Highways and Transport Working Group

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2010/11, the operation of the on-street enforcement service by Carlisle was shown to be largely self-financing within Carlisle, providing that the Residents Parking Permit scheme is subsidised. As an alternative to Parking Connect, Carlisle City Council proposes a revised Agency Agreement with the County Council for Carlisle and potentially Eden which removes the Resident Parking

Scheme from the Agreement but continues with the on-street enforcement element of the service.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

The retention of this service by Carlisle City Council is of benefit to Carlisle residents through the provision of car parking enforcement by one provider for on and off street. The City Council could continue to provide face to face customer service and cash payment options at our contact centre and this could remove the risk of any deficit in income for the County for Carlisle on-street enforcement operations. At the same time, the right number of car parking enforcement officers will be provided so that traffic moves freely in the City Centre without any detrimental impact of the drastic reduction of resources proposed by the County's "minimal" in-house service.