

ON-STREET PARKING, ENFORCEMENT OF YELLOW LINES

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Members to consider the report of the Head of Revenue and Housing Management regarding on-street parking enforcement following consultation with the Head of Legal Services.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the last meeting of the Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement (DPE) Working Group Members expressed their concerns about the delays in implementing DPE across Essex, and particularly Rochford, which was in a tranche of authorities expected to implement DPE in October 2004. This was two years behind the original programme date.
- 2.2 The Working Group recommended that in the interim period research should be conducted to establish what powers this Council might have at its disposal in respect of the enforcement of yellow lines within its town centres.
- 2.3 At a meeting of the Transportation and Environmental Services Committee held on 28 November 2001 an item was raised under Outstanding Issues (Minute 423/01) when the Committee gave endorsement to the actions indicated.
- 2.4 Enquiries were made with the Head of Legal Services who advises that until such time as parking enforcement is decriminalised this Council has no powers to enforce yellow lines within its town centres. He further advises that if town centres are experiencing problems brought about by disregard for parking restrictions then a complaint may be made to the Police or, in the case of highway obstruction, the County Council.

3 POLICE PERSPECTIVE

- 3.1 The Head of Service wrote to Essex Police who responded to the effect that due to limited resources the Police enforcement of parking regulations was comparatively low priority compared to many of the other demands of the service.
- 3.2 The Assistant Superintendent went on to say that currently there were six Traffic Wardens within the Division dedicated to parking enforcement and that because of their limited numbers they were allocated to sections or areas in the Division on a rotational basis at the most appropriate times.

4 CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 In June the Head of Service attended, with Cllr P F A Webster, the Environment and Transport Select Committee of Essex County Council where (County) Members received a comprehensive progress report. It was evident from that meeting that the DPE implementation programmed had faltered but that everyone (including Rochford Officers) was now working to ensure that the new programme progressed in a timely fashion.

5 WORK PROGRAMME

- 5.1 As the DPE Working Group no longer exists it is proposed that the six monthly progress reports should be considered by this Committee and that these be incorporated into the general work programme.

6 RECOMMENDATION

- 6.1 That six monthly progress reports on DPE be considered by this Committee.

S J Clarkson

Head of Revenue and Housing Management

Background Papers:

None

For further information please contact Mr S J Clarkson on:-

Tel:- Ext 3120
E-Mail:- steve.clarkson@rochford.gov.uk