report

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT

DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT – PROGRESS REPORT

Purpose of Report

1.   To inform Members of recent progress and future developments with regard to the Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) project.

Background

2.   In accordance with the Cabinet resolution of 21st April 2004, regular reports are to be brought to Environment Select Committee detailing any significant progress. This is the third of these reports following the update report on 18th October 2004.

Project Development

3.   The project has two fundamental elements: The Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) review and the application to assume DPE responsibility in co-operation with the District Councils.

The Traffic Regulation Order Review

4.   Colin Buchanan and Partners have been appointed to undertake a review of existing TROs within Nottinghamshire and input the details onto ParkMap, a software system specifically designed to store and manipulate TROs. This review commenced in January 2005 and is now 90% complete. The County Council has commenced resolving the anomalies raised by the review with the aim of having the TRO's legally enforceable by the anticipated enforcement transfer date of January 2007. This will involve re-advertising TROs that are supported by an incorrect legal order

as well as a comprehensive maintenance programme to review substandard signs and lines. It is anticipated that the lining maintenance work in particular will commence in summer 2005.

District Council Partnership

5.   RTA Consultants on behalf of the County Council have undertaken a series of presentations to the District Councils to ensure that the District Members are fully informed of the implications and opportunities of DPE. All District Councils have given their agreement in principle to commence negotiations with the County Council and Senior Officers have been nominated to represent their respective authorities. The County Council is currently drafting a partnership agreement to form the basis of these discussions and it is anticipated that meetings will commence in July 2005.

Special Parking Application (SPA)

6.   A draft SPA has now been submitted to the Secretary of State detailing how it is envisaged that enforcement will be undertaken in Nottinghamshire. The transfer of enforcement responsibility needs to be ratified by Parliament, and the draft SPA allows the Secretary of State to allocate time before the House of Commons to hear the formal SPA. A formal application is typically made some 9 – 12 months after the draft SPA is made and is irrevocable. The final wording of the formal application will be determined after negotiations with the Police and District Councils. The draft SPA has also been sent to all neighbouring authorities, the emergency services, public transport operators and all other interested bodies.

Funding

7.   A bid for set-up funding for DPE through the Local Transport Plan was unfortunately unsuccessful. It is clear from consultations with the District Councils that set up funding is a significant obstacle to the delivery of DPE. Set-up costs are estimated to be approximately £1m and it is apparent that the District Councils are unlikely to be in a position to contribute towards this. A request for Capital allocation of £900,000 in respect of the set up costs is expected to be approved by the Cabinet at its meeting in July.

Project Management

8.   Despite two periods of advertisement, it has not been possible to appoint a full-time Project Manager to oversee DPE implementation. To ensure this important project continues to meet the timescales detailed in the

previous report, the project management is currently being undertaken through existing internal resources on a secondment basis with additional work sought from RTA Consultants. In particular, they will attend all significant partnership meetings and if required, draft the enforcement and IT contracts.

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