

REPORT TO INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES COMMITTEE – 20 JUNE 2019

MANAGEMENT OF ON-STREET PARKING IN ABERDEENSHIRE

1 Recommendation

The Committee is recommended to:

1.1 Agree that the feasibility of the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement in Aberdeenshire be revisited.

2 Background/Discussion

- 2.1 Aberdeenshire Council currently enforce parking regulations in off-street car parks managed by the Transportation Service. In Aberdeenshire the enforcement of on-street parking remains the responsibility of Police Scotland. Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) would allow Aberdeenshire Council to enforce on-street parking. The process involves a submission to Transport Scotland that demonstrates that DPE will not create a financial burden for the local authority or that the local authority is prepared to meet any shortfall.
- 2.2 A feasibility study considering DPE was presented to Infrastructure Service Committee on 25 January 2018 (Item 12). Following consideration of the study, the Committee agreed not to progress with DPE at that time.
- 2.3 The Council has developed proposed changes to how off-street car parking is managed in Aberdeenshire. Feedback from the consultation carried out as part of these proposed changes highlighted that there is a desire from many customers and business associations that Aberdeenshire Council should carry out on-street parking enforcement as that would improve the management of town centre parking and aid the vitality of town centres.
- 2.4 The Management of Parking in Aberdeenshire Member Officer Working Group has requested that Infrastructure Services Committee consider whether to authorise officers to revisit the previous work on the feasibility of DPE in Aberdeenshire.
- 2.5 If approved, officers will review the feasibility study in the context of the feedback received regarding DPE being introduced in Aberdeenshire following the implementation of the proposed changes to the management of off-street parking which are due to come into effect in September 2019. A future report on the feasibility of DPE would then be presented to Infrastructure Services Committee in January 2020.
- 2.6 The review will also take cognisance of the implications of the Transport (Scotland) Bill that is currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament. The Bill as drafted may introduce a duty on local authorities to enforce pavement parking and double parking offences as detailed within the Bill. The

Bill completed Stage 1 in April 2019 and Stage 2 amendments will be considered in June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/108853.aspx>

- 2.7 Officers would also consider the experiences in other local authority areas where DPE has recently been introduced such as Highland.
- 2.8 The Head of Finance and Monitoring Officer within Business Services have been consulted in the preparation of this report their comments are incorporated within the report and they are satisfied that the report complies with the Scheme of Governance and relevant legislation.

3 Scheme of Governance

- 3.1 The Committee is able to consider and take a decision on this item in terms of Section F.1.1 (f) of the List of Committee Powers in Part 2A of the Scheme of Governance as it relates to functions undertaken by the Transportation Service.

4 Implications and Risk

- 4.1 An equality impact assessment is not required because the recommendation being considered by Committee does not have a differential impact on any of the protected characteristics. An equality impact assessment will be completed when the review of the feasibility study is reported to Infrastructure Services Committee in January 2020.
- 4.2 There are no staffing or financial implications in reviewing the feasibility study. Staffing and financial implications associated with introducing DPE will be included in the report to Infrastructure Services Committee in January 2020.
- 4.3 No risks have been identified at a Corporate or Directorate level that are relevant to the recommendation. Relevant risks associated with the decision to or not to introduce DPE will be included in the report to Infrastructure Services Committee in January 2020.
- 4.4 A Town Centre First Principal Assessment will be included in the report to Infrastructure Services Committee in January 2020.

Stephen Archer
Director of Infrastructure Services

Report prepared by Martin Hall
3 June 2019