

EXETER CITY COUNCIL

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – ECONOMY

20 JANUARY 2005

EVENING AND WEEKEND ENFORCEMENT OF RESIDENTS' PARKING

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 At the request of the Chair, to advise members of the situation regarding traffic warden enforcement of residents' parking in Exeter during the evenings and at weekends.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 When charging for residents' parking permits was re-introduced in 2001, a commitment was given that any surplus income over the cost of administering permits would be directed into additional evening and weekend enforcement of the scheme. This commitment has resulted in the sum of £15,000 per annum being allocated for that purpose in each of the last three financial years.
- 2.2 Enforcement of the scheme is undertaken by traffic wardens, who are employed by the Police. The contract for enforcement is with the County Council as highway authority. Consequently, the City Council has no direct control over the enforcement arrangements. The surplus permit income is paid to the County Council rather than to the Police.
- 2.3 The additional enforcement has been provided by traffic wardens on the basis of voluntary overtime, although the City Council has consistently expressed a preference for the use of permanent staffing. Until recently, there has been no shortage of volunteers, but in this financial year, it has become apparent that there is a shortage of wardens willing to undertake the role. This has led to a significant reduction in the on-street presence.

3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 In November 2004, the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation wrote to the Police, expressing the Council's dissatisfaction with the current arrangement, and requesting that early consideration be given to the employment of permanent staffing for evening and weekend enforcement.
- 3.2 The Police have now responded signalling their intention to employ two part-time traffic wardens to provide this service, and have confirmed that in the interim period, cover will be provided using volunteers from the neighbouring Mid and East Devon force areas.

4. RECOMMENDED that

- 4.1 Members note the current position regarding evening and weekend enforcement of residents' parking in Exeter.

**WILL AUSTIN
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER (ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT)**

ECONOMY & DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE

Local Government (Access to Information) 1985 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:

1. Letter from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary, 6 December 2004

Available from Will Austin, Administration Manager (Economy & Development)