

## **EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE  
26 NOVEMBER 2013**

### **FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To advise Members of the arrangements for the delivery of on-street civil parking enforcement from 1 April 2014.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 As Executive will be aware, the City Council has delivered on-street parking enforcement on behalf of Devon County Council, under the civil parking enforcement regime (CPE) since May 2008. A similar 'agency' arrangement has been in place in all other Devon districts.
- 2.2 While Exeter has traditionally returned a surplus to the County Council in respect of on-street enforcement (in other words, the income from Penalty Charge Notices has exceeded the costs of providing the service), this has not been the case elsewhere and overall the function has run at a significant loss. The most recent figures produced by the County Council indicate the county-wide deficit to be of the order of £800,000.
- 2.3 DCC commissioned consultants to investigate options for delivering CPE more cost effectively and gave notice to all districts of the termination of existing Agency Agreements with effect from 31 March 2014. Following consideration of the consultants' report, and subsequent discussions at the Devon Parking Board, a proposed new Agency Agreement – based on an annual fee – was put forward to all districts in July this year. The aim of these new annual fee agreements was to generate an annual saving of £400,000 for the County Council.
- 2.4 The annual fee offer to Exeter for 2014/15 was £421,219. Using the County's own figures, this represents a reduction of £26,782 on the costs of running CPE in Exeter in 2011/12. In officers' view, the City Council would not be able to run the service at this level of funding without incurring a significant level of financial risk. Following consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Economy & Culture, the fixed fee offer was therefore declined. DCC subsequently asked us to clarify the financial terms on which we would be prepared to continue with on-street enforcement and we submitted a counter-proposal seeking funding of £487,572. This comprised what officers calculated to be the true costs of running the service (£443,248) plus a 10% management fee (£44,324). This counter-proposal was not acceptable to the County Council on the basis that it would not enable them to deliver their required savings.

#### **3. THE PRESENT POSITION**

- 3.1 The City Council will not be involved in the provision of on-street enforcement after 31 March 2014. The County Council is currently progressing with two alternative delivery models, an in-house DCC service and a service managed by Teignbridge, South Hams and West Devon District Councils, and a decision on which model to implement is expected very soon. Exeter will continue to run off-street enforcement

under the CPE regime in its own right, and will look to incorporate all its off-street parking areas into this regime so that there is a single management and enforcement system in place. All front line and back office staff presently involved in on-street parking enforcement (19 posts in total) will transfer under TUPE arrangements to the new service provider.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The fixed fee proposal by DCC would have transferred financial risk from the County to the City, with no corresponding financial benefit for this Council. The loss of on-street CPE removes this risk. Off-street enforcement will be provided within existing staff resources and the only additional costs will arise as a result of acquiring the licences for the back office notice processing system. These have yet to be identified but should be containable within the car parking base budget.

#### **5. RECOMMENDED**

- 1) That Executive note the contents of this report and the proposals for parking enforcement post 31 March 2014.

ROGER COOMBES  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report:**

**None**