

Decriminalisation of Parking within Huntingdonshire Update

February 2022

Background

Huntingdonshire District Council gave approval following an Overview and Scrutiny Panel 4th Feb 2021 & Cabinet 11th Feb 2021 to allow the progression Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) of on-street parking offences in Huntingdonshire.

Cambridgeshire County Council gave approval following a report to their Highways & Transport Committee on 7th September 2021 for 3 districts within the County (HDC, FDC & SCDC) to pursue the decriminalisation of parking within each of the districts, with each authority having the ability to differ the approach.

In relation to Huntingdonshire, approval was given to:

- a) Authorise Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) to prepare a Civil Enforcement Area (CEA) or Special Enforcement Area (SEA) application to the Department for Transport for a Designation Order for the introduction of CPE in Fenland, Huntingdonshire, and South Cambridgeshire.
- b) Delegate the approval of Agency Agreements with Fenland, Huntingdonshire and South Cambridgeshire District Councils, a funding agreement with the Greater Cambridge Partnership and the Department for Transport application to the Service Director (Place and Economy), in consultation with the Chair of the Highways and Transport Committee.

In summary, approval for the pursuit of decriminalisation of parking which is the process required to be undertaken for on-street parking to be enforced as a Civil matter by HDC has been agreed by both Cambridgeshire County Council (as the Highways Authority) & Huntingdonshire District Council (the agent for enforcement in the district).

Progression

A cross authority working group has been established with officers of both CCC & HDC. The group have progressed works on:

- Development of an agency agreement which would see HDC act as the agent for the County Council for the enforcement of on-street civil parking offences.
- Discussion with the Department for Transport in relation to the Huntingdonshire area (as anomalies within Cambs Districts exist due to CCC already decriminalising Park & Ride locations) and commencing population of the application to the DfT.

Work undertaken separately by HDC include:

- Development of a [public facing webpage](#) on the Huntingdonshire District Council main site. The webpage covers 'what is civil parking enforcement' & the steps involved in the process. This was included in the Member Alert email of the 17th December 2021.
- A review of Huntingdonshire District Council off-street parking places orders currently in operation to begin the process of consolidation and transfer to the required 'new' baseline order for CPE.

Future Works

The reports that will be brought forward are:

- Parking Department for Transport Draft Application
(For Update/Information & comment)
 - Exact dates to be confirmed.
 - Anticipated July/August 2022

This is a DfT document submitted by the County to form a 'Civil Enforcement Area (CEA)' within the district. This is a fairly standard document so not much tailoring.

- Parking: Enforcement Policy Draft
(For Update/Information & comment)
 - Exact dates to be confirmed.
 - Anticipated October 2022

This is the set of documents summarising how we enforce. This will be developed in conjunction with CCC as CPE works progress. Detail is formed based on the above.

- Parking: Enforcement Policy Final
(For Approval/Endorsement)
 - Exact dates to be confirmed.
 - Anticipated February 2023

Alongside the development of the documentation and reports, other works are required to be undertaken as part of the progression towards Civil Parking Enforcement.

These works include:

- Signs & Lines and Traffic Regulation Order Reviews
- Remedial works (to correct above)
- Enforcement Structure Review & Implementation
- Back Office Systems Upgrade

The project is being managed in accordance with the Councils EPMO. A live risk register is in place accessible by all on the EPMO. The project currently remain 'green' with all works on track.

Contact Officers

George McDowell Operations Manager George.McDowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Joanne Cook Project Support Officer Joanne.Cook@huntingdonshire.gov.uk