

RECORD OF DECISION

TITLE: Telford & Wrekin Civil Enforcement

Ref: PCC/D/2020/07

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Telford & Wrekin has been one of the last remaining areas of England where parking remains a criminal matter, enforced by local police.

This has not delivered the best service for local communities, compared to the widespread use of civil enforcement in other areas.

Civil enforcement would deliver dedicated resources for tackling parking and other issues for local communities, and would enable local police teams to focus on other priorities that create higher levels of harm in the community.

Initial financial support is required to transition to such a civil enforcement scheme. This funding will ensure the viability of the new scheme in the short to medium term and enable it to become established under local authority jurisdiction.

PROPOSAL

This proposal is for the Police and Crime Commissioner to provide up to a maximum of £200,000 in funding to Telford and Wrekin Council in support of the transition and establishment of civil enforcement in the Borough.

This funding would be available for up to four years, at a maximum level that reduces each year (as set out below), to cover any deficit incurred by the Council in establishing civil enforcement.

**APPROVAL OF
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the above proposal.

Signed



PART 1 – NON-CONFIDENTIAL/EXEMPT FACTS AND FIGURES

SUPPORTING REPORT

Responsibility for the enforcement of parking in England almost universally rests with local authorities.

Telford and Wrekin is one of very few areas of the country where this has not been the case. Parking has remained a criminal matter, with responsibility for enforcement resting with West Mercia Police.

This does not deliver the most effective, efficient solution for either the local community or the police force. Parking enforcement does not receive the level of attention it should as a key community concern, and carrying out enforcement requires significant police resources to be diverted away from other key priorities. The impact of this has only been heightened in recent years as demand on policing has evolved and increased

It is therefore proposed that a civil enforcement scheme is introduced in Telford & Wrekin, run by the Borough Council. This would deliver dedicated local resources to local communities to ensure a greater focus on parking enforcement (as well as other issues that can be tackled through civil enforcement). It would also free up significant police time and resource to focus on other local priorities that cause the most harm.

Financial support is necessary in order to transition to and fully establish civil enforcement in the Borough. The Police and Crime Commissioner is to provide up to £200,000 in grant funding to facilitate this during the first four years of the new scheme.

This funding will be available to cover any deficits incurred by Telford and Wrekin Council during the infancy of civil enforcement. The estimated schedule and forecasted annual limits for the funding are as follows:

Year 1 (from 1 April 2020 to 31st March 2021) – up to £107,993

Year 2 (from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022) – up to £43,225

Year 3 (from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023) – up to £31,170

Year 4 (from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024) – up to £16,600

The grant funding is subject to an open book approach between Telford & Wrekin Council and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This includes (but is not limited to) up to date forecasts of cost profiles and income recovered.

Some setup costs incurred before 1st April 2020 may also be considered for funding by the Police and Crime Commissioner as part of the year one claim, although these should be identified separately for accounting purposes

FINANCIAL COMMENTS

These costs will be funded from the Demand Management Reserve

LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

By virtue of schedule 11, paragraph 14 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Commissioner may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of commissioner. That includes: entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not) and acquiring and disposing of property (including land).

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI Act) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner's website. Any facts and advice that should not be made automatically available on request are not included in Part 1 but instead in the separate Part 2 report. There is no part 2 report

OFFICER APPROVAL**Chief Executive Officer**

Signature ..  Date 16th March 2020