

**ITEM REFERRED FROM OTHER COMMITTEES  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE -18 NOVEMBER 2008**

**E35 JOINT PARKING SERVICE**

Further to the previous meeting, the Director of Operations presented a detailed report on the establishment of a joint parking service for Braintree, Colchester and Uttlesford Councils. Both Uttlesford and Braintree were currently operating interim arrangements that were unsustainable and all three Councils were constrained by their current capacity to develop services.

A number of options had been evaluated and it had been concluded that a joint service would be the best solution. It would meet the Council's objectives which were to improve the quality of service and make ongoing financial savings. It had modest one-off investment costs and would provide pay back within a few years. The lead authority for the management of the service would be Colchester who would provide the administrative support. The service could be delivered by means of a Joint Committee.

The report set out the various options that had been considered and then explained the detailed operation of the preferred model. It set out the benefits of the scheme and the financial implications of the proposal. Attached to the report was a draft Joint Committee agreement that had been drawn up by the three partners.

The Director of Operations said that if the arrangements were approved she would start the formal consultation with staff this week. She then answered a number of questions about the detailed operation of the scheme in particular how the various functions would be split between the partner organisations.

She confirmed that the assets would remain with Uttlesford as would the income from the car parking fees. Although there would no longer be a physical back office at Uttlesford, with the involvement of the Customer Service Centre the experience for the customer would be very similar to now.

Members raised questions about the financial arrangements and it was confirmed that the three councils would share equally any net benefits or costs arising from the joint service.

The Chairman said that there were bound to be teething problems but Internal Audit would be looking at the new arrangements in the first year. She paid tribute to officers for the

tremendous amount of work over a long period of time that had led to the formation of this partnership.

RESOLVED that

- 1 the Committee approve the establishment of a Joint Parking Partnership and permit Uttlesford to join with Braintree and Colchester in a service hosted by Colchester.
- 2 Authority be delegated to the Director of Operations in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Chair of Environment Committee to further develop the arrangements with the partner authorities and agree the Agreement that specifies the scope of Joint arrangements, responsibilities and financial implications for the three authorities.

And RECOMMENDED that Full Council

- 3 approve the formation of a Joint Committee to oversee the provision of parking services on behalf of the three authorities, delivered by a joint service hosted within Colchester Borough Council.
- 4 Councillors Barker and Chamberlain be nominated to serve on the Joint Committee with Councillor Smith as a substitute, if required.