

# **NORTH ESSEX PARKING PARTNERSHIP JOINT COMMITTEE FOR OFF-STREET PARKING**

**11 December 2014 at 1.00pm  
Council Chamber, Epping Forest District Council, Epping**

## Executive Members Present:-

Councillor Susan Barker (Uttlesford District Council)  
Councillor Anthony Durcan (Harlow District Council)  
Councillor Robert Mitchell (Braintree District Council)  
Councillor Gary Waller (Epping Forest District Council)

## Apologies: -

Councillor Nick Barlow (Colchester Borough Council)  
Councillor Rodney Bass (Essex County Council)  
Councillor Eddie Johnson (Essex County Council)

## Also Present: -

Jonathan Baker (Colchester Borough Council)  
Lou Belgrove (Parking Partnership)  
Trevor Degville (Parking Partnership)  
Vicky Duff (Essex Highways)  
Qasim Durrani (Epping Forest District Council)  
Amanda Hoadley (Epping Forest District Council)  
Joe McGill (Harlow District Council)  
Derek McNab (Epping Forest District Council)  
David Oxbow (Epping Forest District Council)  
Samir Pandya (Braintree District Council)  
Andrew Taylor (Uttlesford District Council)  
Alexandra Tuthill (Colchester Borough Council)  
Richard Walker (Parking Partnership)  
Matthew Young (Colchester Borough Council)

## Apologies:-

Paul Partridge (Braintree District Council)  
Shane Taylor (Parking Partnership)

## **11. Declaration of Interests**

Councillor Barker, in respect of being a Member of Essex County Council, declared a non-pecuniary interest.

Councillor Durcan, in respect of being a Member of Essex County Council, declared a non-pecuniary interest.

## **12. Minutes**

*RESOLVED* that the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee for Off-Street Parking of 16 October 2014 be confirmed as a correct record.

### **13. NEPP Off-Street service - costs of new service and financial update**

Matthew Young, Colchester Borough Council, introduced the amended report following comments at the NEPP meeting on 16 October. This included correcting the percentage contribution increase within the Option 2 spreadsheet. In addition the report now includes a further appendix providing information on how contributions were calculated and reasons behind Officers recommending Option 1.

Councillor Mitchell, Braintree District Council, raised a number of questions regarding the Off-Street service and the requirement for the one-off contributions. Councillor Mitchell stated that the Partnership should put the case to Essex County Council on the impact of the lower level of funding provided to the NEPP in comparison to the South Essex Parking Partnership, which has caused additional redundancies and deficit.

The Committee agreed that a letter be written to Essex County Council highlighting the funding discrepancy and to request that Essex County Council pay the calculated difference, of approximately £160,000.

The Committee also requested that a review of the Off-Street service budget takes place, prior to any agreement on the level of 2015/16 contributions. The Committee also asked questions regarding the percentage split between the Off-Street and On-Street on contributions, time, PCN's and management from this year and previous years.

Matthew Young, Colchester Borough Council, stated a review would be needed imminently to ensure that the North Essex Parking Partnership can complete its budget for the next financial year.

*RESOLVED* that -

- a) The Chairman write to Essex County Council to request that Essex County Council contribute the calculated difference in funding to the NEPP.
- b) The North Essex Parking Partnership holds an immediate review of the Off-street service budget, incorporating the response from Essex County Council.
- c) The Chairman write to Essex County Council regarding the attendance of Essex County Councillors at future North Essex Parking Partnership meetings.

### **14. NEPP Off-Street Financial Update**

Richard Walker, Parking Partnership introduced the NEPP Off-street Financial Update, which shows a slight surplus, although the effects of redundancy have yet to be factored in.

Richard Walker stated that as the report included figures from the one off contributions that were not agreed within the 'NEPP Off-Street service - costs of new service and financial update' the income totals would need to be amended.

The Committee discussed the Off-Street financial update and questioned the additional fuel costs included within the Outturn forecasts when fuel pricing is set to decrease.

*RESOLVED* that:-

- a) the NEPP Off-Street Financial Update be noted,
- b) that the Off-Street financial contribution for 2015/16 remain at the 2014/15 levels,
- c) the contributions be reviewed when the outcome of the Off Street Service budget is known, and only be altered if Essex County Council does not provide the additional funding.

## **15. Operational Report**

Lou Belgrove, Parking Partnership, introduced the Operational report for the Off-Street Committee, and highlighted that Braintree District Council will be soon implementing charges for disabled badge holders. Colchester Borough Council will then follow with charges to be introduced from 9 of February. In both areas Disabled Badge holders will be entitled to an extra hour on top of the one that is purchased.

The Committee debated the introduction of charges for Blue Badge holders, particularly around the role of the Local Authority and what commercial providers charge. Councillor Mitchell stated that Braintree District Council have held a consultation and have improved the accessibility.

The Committee also discussed the reduction in number of Penalty Charge Notices issued for the latest period. The Partnership stated that this was as a result of people being more careful, and in the case of Epping Forest District Council there were a number of Civil Enforcement Office vacancies.

*RESOLVED* that the Operational Report be noted.