

The Highland Council

Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee– 27 February 2017

Agenda Item	6
Report No	SR/3/17

Decriminalised Parking Enforcement

Report by Director of Community Services

Summary

To update members of the committee on the progress towards enforcement of waiting & loading regulations in townships in their area.

1. Background

1.1 In October 2016 the Highland Council began enforcing traffic regulations relating to waiting & loading restrictions under:-

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2016

THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL (OFF-STREET PARKING PLACES) (DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT AND CONSOLIDATION) ORDER 2016

This was after receiving statutory consent through the Scottish Parliament. Initially we have been able to complete the necessary works to allow enforcement in Inverness & Fort William.

The delivery of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) across the Councils Special Parking Area (SPA), and Permitted Parking Area (PPA) is ongoing during 2017.

2. Preparations

2.1 We have reviewed some 5000 streets across the authority and some 4000 TROs to enable us to update all relevant restrictions.

2.2 The Project involves:-

- the assessment of all existing waiting and loading restrictions;
- the production of a new Traffic Regulation Order (TRO);
- the production and advertising of Map based TROs;
- the replacing, refreshing or amending of some 2000 signs & 160km of lining on-street;
- the establishing of a Back Office processing service; and
- the recruitment and deployment of staff resources to enforce TROs.

These works will deliver the ability for Council Parking Enforcement Officers to enforce on-street & off-street restrictions by means of the issuing of Penalty Charge Notices.

3. Review Status

- 3.1 The physical refreshing of on-street restrictions on Skye and surrounding areas are programmed to be undertaken from Feb/March 2017 (weather permitting) with a view to publishing the necessary TROs at the same time to enable enforcement to be implemented from May 2017.

The Variation to the master on-street TRO which will be published will cover multiple locations and will be a consolidation by Notice of existing restrictions, as is.

If amendments or additions are made to restrictions this will require additional consultation and result in a more lengthy process to deliver a new TRO and therefore delay enforcement.

The existing on-street order covering Inverness & Fort William is available to view at:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16629/on_street_decriminalised_parking_enforcement_order

- 3.2 The off-street order is complete and is available for enforcement immediately. This order covers some 226 car parks including 17 chargeable across the Highland Council and is available to view at:

http://www.highland.gov.uk/downloads/file/16630/draft_traffic_restriction_order_for_car_parks

We will update the existing car park signage in any off street car parks in Skye that members wish to be chargeable and enforced. This will require some amendments to the Off Street TRO if any new car park is not within the current order.

- 3.3 In addition we have considered the replacement of pay & display machines within our forward planning and if approved we will be ordering those in due course. However as a contingency I am enquiring about the possibility of newer, second hand machines to ensure operations continue this summer. It is hoped that cashless and contactless parking will also be made available. This includes the provision of "RINGO" a cashless payment system available across the UK.

4. Implications

- 4.1 The criteria for enforcement resources are such that the service must be delivered cost neutral. The allocation of staff in the Skye area is an unknown at this time and it will require live assessment of the demand for enforcement to ensure adequate and efficient allocation of resources that does not defund any other part of the service.

- 4.2 Currently enforcement staff are based in Inverness & Fort William and initial enforcement out with these bases will be planned but unannounced to allow officers to visit areas to enforce restrictions effectively.
- 4.3 Members concerns have been expressed that adequate staff resources must be allocated to Skye. This has been evidenced by difficulties in traffic management and income collection experienced in 2015/16. If the case can be made that enforcement activity can be funded from income generated then members have requested consideration be given to providing a post on Skye. Two Enforcement posts are currently held as part of the 2017/18 budget savings proposals, which, if released one post can be considered for this purpose.
- 4.4 Members should be made aware that Council Parking Enforcement Officers do not have the same powers as the previous Police Traffic Wardens. They cannot direct traffic (point duty). They can move vehicles on and issue penalty charge notices for stationary vehicles in contravention of waiting & loading restrictions.

All moving traffic violations are still dealt with by Police Scotland including reportable parking offences such as, Obstruction or Dangerous Parking.

Recommendation

Members are invited to comment and otherwise note the progress towards delivery of DPE in the Skye & Raasay area.

Designation: Director of Community Services

Date: 24 January 2017

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Background Papers:

Report COM 23/14 – CS Committee 21 Aug 2014

http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/66273/item_15_decriminalised_parking_enforcement

Report COM 40/14 – CS Committee 6 Nov 2014

http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/66837/14_decriminalised_parking_enforcement

Report COM 11/16 – CS Committee 4 Feb 2016

http://www.highland.gov.uk/download/meetings/id/69680/item_14_decriminalised_parking_enforcement