

## Report for Information

<b>Report to</b>	Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee 24 July 2008
<b>Report of</b>	Director of Regeneration and Development
<b>Subject</b>	Charging for on-street parking and decriminalised parking enforcement – end of year monitoring report

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**Item**  
**13**

### **Purpose**

This report updates members on the income from on-street parking charges and enforcement for the 2007/2008 financial year. .

### **Recommendations**

That members note this report.

### **Financial Consequences**

There are no direct financial consequences.

### **Corporate Objective/Service Plan Priority**

To build a successful economic future for Norwich and ensure sustainable growth

To make Norwich safe and secure, building strong and proud communities

To ensure the City has a clean and healthy environment

### **Contact Officer**

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### **Background Documents**

None

## Report

### Charging for on-street parking and decriminalised parking enforcement – monitoring report

1. This monitoring report provides members with the end of year financial information on the income for the on-street parking operation relating to Penalty Charge Notices [PCN], challenges and usage of the on street meters. It covers the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.
2. The end of year surplus of income relating to the 2007/2008 financial year is £20,885. This surplus is the nett figure relating to pay and display on-street meters, PCN charges and the sales of various permits and dispensations. The surplus will be paid to Norfolk County Council and will subsequently be used in support of highway improvements within the NATS area and other road safety schemes. In the January report, it was mentioned that the surplus to the end of the financial year was anticipated to be £47,500. This forecast has proven to be exaggerated due to the anticipated revenue from Penalty Charge Notices which has not occurred. However, Members will recall that, in the January meeting of this Committee, a report, was submitted which related to the need to migrate from the old legislation [Road Traffic Act 1991] to the replacement legislation [Traffic Management Act 2004]. The report mentioned, amongst other things, the changes which were needed in order for this to happen. On 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2008, all the necessary changes were made, including the introduction of differential penalty charges. The report concluded that the estimated financial resource implications would cost the County Council £100k and the City Council £50k. Further exploration with the City Council's Information and Technology contractors realised a dramatic reduction of this estimate and the final cost to the County will be £809, a saving to the County of over £99k on the original estimate.
3. The main reason for the decrease in the surplus has resulted from the continued increase in compliance of motorists when parking their vehicles in the City. This situation has been, by and large, experienced nationwide where numbers of PCNs have also fallen.
4. The percentage of challenges to PCNs, which are taken to Appeals and Adjudication, is now 0.34%, down .02% on last year's figures. This compares with the national average of appeals to adjudication, which is currently 0.28%. The figure reflects the appropriate methodology for issuing PCNs by well trained Civil Enforcement Officers.
5. There were 27,223 PCNs issued during the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008. Of these, 19.98% were challenged and waived for reasons which would not have been apparent to the Civil Enforcement Officers at the time the tickets were issued. The cancellation of these PCNs follows the guidelines mentioned in the Council's Parking Enforcement Policy.
6. Patrols have continued to enforce the Traffic Regulation Orders in and around the night-time economy areas of Norwich, until the early hours of the morning. The patrols have proven to be successful and have been commended by the Police. They are seen as being an integral part of the public order operations

carried out by the Police at weekends in that area. Few, if any, reports of public disorder or antisocial behaviour have been received from residents in these areas since the enforcement began.

7. In addition to the income from the on-street parking, there are other benefits gained since the decriminalised parking has been in operation. As agreed, Civil Enforcement Officers report instances of violence, needles/drug abuse, missing vehicle excise licences, anti social behaviour and environmental issues in the City as part of their routine patrols. They are also a point of contact for the public, taking reports of issues and answering everyday on-street questions from the public thereby providing a valuable service to the community. The limited amount of on-street parking, particularly in the City centre, has also been managed to ensure optimum use and benefit to residents, businesses and visitors to Norwich.
8. The following appendices provide evidence in support of the above report:

Appendix A: On Street Operations, pay and display

Appendix B: Penalty Charge Notice [PCN] income

Appendix C: Penalty Charge Notices

Appendix D: Penalty Charge Notice cases to Traffic Penalty Tribunal

## References

Reports to NHAC – January 2007