

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

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CCTV ENFORCEMENT VEHICLE

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Summary

To provide the Committee with information on the operational deployment of the CCTV vehicle and its enforcement priorities, together with the details of the benefits that have been gained from this new enforcement strategy.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 Parking enforcement is a key element in achieving the Local Transport Plans (LTP) targets and contributes to a number of Council priorities, not least that of "People travelling easily and safely in Medway".
- 1.2 There are no National Indicators (NI's) selected in the Local Area Agreement (LAA) for this area of work. However the parking enforcement service positively contributes to two NI's, namely the reduction on Children being Killed or Seriously Injured (NI 48) and also reduction in congestion (NI 167). Illegal and inappropriate parking both have an adverse effect on these targets.

2. Background

- 2.1 It was agreed at Cabinet in January 2008 that Parking Services would implement the use of a CCTV vehicle to assist with the enforcement of parking regulations throughout the authority, the main priority for this would be to promote a strong presence at the Medway schools.

- 2.2 Having the option of carrying out parking enforcement via CCTV devices has enabled the Council to have a more proactive approach in relation to our school enforcement activities and has helped towards ensuring the safety of children.

3.0 CCTV School Enforcement

- 3.1 Officers ensure that they visit one school in the morning and one school in the afternoon during the peak times, in total making 339 visits and have issued 1,491 Penalty Charge Notices (PCN) to vehicles parked in contravention at Medway schools. These contraventions include parking on the school keep clear markings, double and single yellow lines and also bus stop offences. Officers attend a variety of schools to provide a fair and consistent presence throughout the area. However, there may be a need to attend specific problematic locations more frequently to heighten the Council's enforcement visibility to resolve parking related issues.
- 3.2 The Council receives many requests from Medway's schools for the presence of the CCTV vehicle due to its success and it is proving to have a very positive impact on the inconsiderate parking trends that are usually found at the schools during the peak periods.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 and 2 contain maps detailing schools visited, the school locations and the number of Penalty Charge Notices issued per school. This has been colour coded for ease of reference.

4. CCTV Non School Enforcement

- 4.1 In addition to the PCN's issued at schools officers have also issued a total of 8,027 Penalty Charge Notices to locations throughout the authority where parking is prohibited i.e. single / double yellow lines, bus stops etc. which has enabled a better public transport service and has assisted with the free flow of traffic through the towns.

5. Operational deployment of the CCTV vehicle

- 5.1 Officers have also utilised this resource in more volatile locations providing a safer environment for the Council's workforce. Since the CCTV vehicle was introduced on 1 April 2008 the number of incidents against staff has been reduced by 40%.
- 5.2 Risk assessments have been carried out at all locations that are currently enforced by CCTV to ensure the locations are safe for the vehicle to park and monitor parking regulations.
- 5.3 The school peak times amount to approximately two and half hours per day Monday to Friday, for the remainder of the day and during the school holidays the CCTV vehicle is utilised throughout Medway concentrating on the traffic sensitive areas, keeping the emergency corridors clear of congestion and ensuring the free flow of traffic

through the strategic road network tying into Medway Council's Traffic Management Plan.

- 5.4 Although the CCTV vehicle was not brought into force in Medway as a money generating project, the income stream that has been generated from the Penalty Charge Notices that have been issued is re-invested and ring-fenced into the highways, road safety initiatives, the road network and the maintenance of car parks.

6. Additional CCTV Vehicle

- 6.1 Due to the increasing demand for the CCTV vehicle at our schools and the positive impact the vehicle has had on the number of incidents against our staff we will be implementing a second vehicle on 1 April 2009. This will enable us to visit four schools per day thus maximising our presence and being able to respond to the regular requests we receive.

7. Risk Management

Risk	Description	Action to avoid or mitigate risk
Children and parents getting to and from school safely.	Illegally or inappropriately parked cars may obscure clear sight/vision lines for other drivers of children and/or parents crossing the road.	By reducing/stopping the number of cars parking illegally or inappropriately, this may help to avoid the possibility of injury and/or accidents when walking to/from school.
All pedestrians and drivers throughout Medway	Illegal and inappropriate parking on highways.	By reducing the number of cars parked illegally or inappropriately will reduce the number of road accidents and congestion on Medway's roads.
Health and safety of Council officers.	Abuse and physical harm from members of the public.	Being in the car lessens the risk of harm to staff.
Enforcement locations safe for use by CCTV vehicle.	Avoid accidents to staff and other road users.	Identify safe locations to park and monitor parking activity.

8. Financial and Legal Implications

- 8.1 The vehicle and the CCTV equipment are leased and the cost of running this vehicle for 12 months is around £95,000. This cost is contained within the existing budget.
- 8.2 Overall 9,518 Penalty Charge Notices have been issued through the use of the CCTV car and this has resulted in an income of £200,000 which is reinvested into the parking highway service area.
- 8.3 The enforcement of parking restrictions is undertaken under the Road Traffic Act 1984. It also contributes to the Council's duties under the Traffic Management Act 2004, in managing the highway network.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The committee is asked to endorse the work carried out by the CCTV enforcement vehicles and staff.

Background documents

None.

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