



Corporate Management Committee

Thursday, 23 March 2023 at 7.30 pm

Council Chamber - Civic Centre

Supplementary Agenda

	<u>Page</u>
14. Motion from Council	3 - 5

Background

The Council, at its meeting on 9 February 2023, agreed the motion below. A proposed letter, drafted by the Leader of the Council, is attached.

This Council notes:

1. *The unilateral decision by Surrey County Council to return devolved on-street parking enforcement back to County control.*
2. *That these services were previously provided by Runnymede Borough Council, along with other districts and boroughs, and could be highly responsive to the needs of residents and the concerns of Councillors, where they were fully resourced.*
3. *Where streets faced parking overspill or parking stress, Councillors and residents are able to apply for a resident parking permit (RPP) scheme to ensure a level of specific control over the area or street considered.*
4. *That in Runnymede 7 such schemes are presently in place in the following streets:*
 - *Burn Close*
 - *The Hythe*
 - *Hythe Road*
 - *Cumberland Street*
 - *Railway Terrace*
 - *Thorpe Road*
 - *Wick Road*
5. *That the current permit charge is £80 for first permit issued to a household, £100 for second permit issued to a household and £130 for three or more permits issued to a household.*
6. *That the revenue derived by these permits had previously gone into expanding the enforcement team in Runnymede and ensured residents had a better opportunity to park outside their own home and that parking safety was enhanced.*
7. *That the unilateral decision by Surrey County Council has had a detrimental impact to this Borough's ability to enforce these permits and generally maintain the same level of staffing in our parking team.*

8. *That residents in Egham Hythe, Englefield Green West and Addlestone North where RPPs are in force are now paying the same price for a permit and a service which is less valuable than it was last year, with lower enforcement ability.*

The Council resolves:

That the Leader write a letter to the Leader of Surrey County Council to make the following points, with group leaders who are agreement with the sentiments raised, invited to co-sign it:

1. *That this Council once again reiterates that it believes it is the wrong decision to return those devolved on street enforcement powers back to the County Council.*
2. *That we request a revised and published timetable for completion and role out of the new service provided by Surrey County Council and that it be shared with this Council and our residents.*
3. *That we reiterate this Council's wish for all new and transferred staff to be employed with a local remit and base, to ensure their local knowledge is not lost in the new service.*
4. *That Runnymede Borough Council encourages Surrey County Council to consider suitable compensation to those Runnymede residents who held a Residential Parking Permit, that the actions of the County have impaired the ability to enforce.*
5. *That the Leader of Surrey County Council is asked to confirm that in future, in the spirit of providing good and efficient public services regardless of who provides them, no future unilateral decisions will be taken without consulting districts and boroughs where their services or roles will be directly affected.*

Recommendation

That the Corporate Management Committee review and agree a draft of the letter to be sent to the Leader of Surrey County Council.

My Ref: TG/SCC/003

XX March 2023

County Councillor Tim Oliver,
Leader, Surrey County Council,
Woodhatch Place
11 Cockshot Hill
Reigate,
Surrey,
RH2 8EF

Sending via email and post – tim.oliver@surreycc.gov.uk,

Dear Tim,

RETURN OF ON-STREET PARKING ENFORCEMENT TO COUNTY COUNCIL CONTROL

Further to a resolution at Full Council, I am writing to you in respect of the unilateral decision that was taken by Surrey County Council to return on-street parking enforcement to the control of Surrey County Council. Runnymede Borough Council once again reiterates that it believes it is the wrong decision to return those devolved on street enforcement powers back to the County Council.

On-street parking enforcement services were previously provided by Runnymede Borough Council, along with other districts and boroughs, meaning we could be highly responsive to the needs of residents and the concerns of Councillors, where they were fully resourced.

Whilst I understand the arguments that were put forward by Cllr Furniss in his presentation to the Surrey Leaders Group I [and the leaders of the political groups who are represented on Runnymede Borough Council set out below], nevertheless are concerned that this decision will reduce the capacity and availability of enforcement services. We consider it is vital for enforcement to remain visible and responsive to the issues raised by residents and Councillors who best understand their local area.

At a high level I understand that Surrey County Council have entered into arrangements to ensure that there are 65 civil enforcement officers across all boroughs and districts in Surrey. Noting the geographic breadth of Surrey, would we be able to have assurances that enforcement in Runnymede would not be compromised under the new arrangements? Please could you provide further information regarding the structure and area coverage of enforcement teams, and confirmation that enforcement would be proportionate in terms of population density, while also ensuring that rural areas receive adequate cover, particularly around schools?

Enforcement is also most effectively delivered where officers have local knowledge and are able to deliver targeted focus of resources around areas of high risk at peak periods. I would therefore be grateful for further assurances that efforts will be made to recruit staff from within each borough. Please could you also provide further detail on the planned approach to assessing enforcement need and prioritisation of resource under the new structure?

In addition, within Runnymede Resident Parking Permit schemes are operated in a number of wards including in both Addlestone and Egham and villages across the borough. Residents have subscribed to these schemes, with a minimum charge of £80 for a household permit. Should there be a reduction in enforcement resource in these areas due to the changes, we would encourage Surrey County Council to consider reviewing the costs and charges of these schemes to ensure value for money is retained. Please can assurances also be provided regarding future charges, how these will be determined and how value will be maintained.

In order to support a smooth transition to the new operating arrangements we would welcome a timetable setting out the expected implementation of the new service which we can provide with residents to prepare them for the revised arrangements. While the Initial contract will begin on 1 April, we would welcome more detailed information regarding staff recruitment and any planned community engagement activity.

Finally, I appreciate that subsequent to the decision taken in respect of on-street parking enforcement you have met with a sub-group of Surrey Borough & District Leaders to discuss County strategies and the resolution of County and Borough & District issues. I welcome the positive tone you have brought to these discussions and that there is the opportunity to re-set the relationship between the County and Borough & District authorities. To that end it is our collective hope that Surrey County Council will not take any future unilateral decisions without first consulting Boroughs and Districts, where their services will be directly affected.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Thomas Gracey

Leader, Runnymede Borough Council
Councillor for Woodham & Row Town

Email: cllr.tom.gracey@runnymede.gov.uk

Mobile: 07714 210414

Cllr Isabel Mullens
Leader of the Runnymede Independent
Residents Group

Cllr Malcolm Cressey
Leader of the Independent Group

Cllr Robert King
Leader of the Labour and Co-operative Group

Cllr Don Whyte
Leader of the Liberal Democrats

Cllr Steve Ringham
Leader of the Green and Independent Alliance