

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 1ST MAY 2019

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 18TH MARCH 2019

**“C628 RESHAPING SERVICES - ENFORCEMENT SERVICES (REF) -
(Urgent by reason of the need to make a determination in respect of the
termination of the existing contract by 31st March 2019)**

Cabinet considered a reference from the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee of 7th March, 2019. The Scrutiny Committee had been requested to consider a report on Reshaping Services - Enforcement Services following the Resolutions of Cabinet on 18th February, 2019.

The report had sought Cabinet approval for proposals of for the creation of an in-house Enforcement Team and to consider revising fixed penalty notice values for certain environmental offences.

The report outlined that the Council currently provided Enforcement Services for both Environmental and Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) via partnership arrangements with 3GS (UK) Ltd. and Bridgend County Borough Council respectively. In addition, educational enforcement was provided by two in-house Council officers whose job roles encompassed both education enforcement and highways inspections.

Enforcement Services had been identified as a Reshaping Services Project under the Council's Income Generation and Commercial Opportunities Strategy due to there being the potential to operate more proactively in the area, and in doing so work towards a cost-mutual model. This involved a review of performance of the 3GS contract and in line with the principles contained in the Council's Income Generation and Commercial Opportunities Strategy. The outcome of the review, including proposals for the future of the Council's Enforcement Service were contained within the Report which recommended the creation of a centralised in-house Enforcement Team that provided more flexibility and control to the Council.

The Report suggested that a new in-house Enforcement Service be created with the focus on environmental and highway enforcement initially, followed by integrating CPE following the development of a Corporate Parking Policy. As such, it was proposed that CPE would be introduced at a later stage to allow time until the Parking Strategy was finalised and for the required notice period to be serviced to Bridgend Council. At such time it was recommended that a further report be brought to Cabinet outlining the future intentions for CPE. Additionally, the Report recommended a review of certain fixed penalty notices where limits could be set by the Council and presented for consideration, revised amounts from April 2019.

Cabinet noted that at the Scrutiny Committee on 7th March, 2019 the reference referred to the fact that “Members were collectively in favour of the Vale of Glamorgan’s Enforcement Services being brought in-house as it seemed a responsible decision to make. However, asked that a request be made for a six monthly monitoring report, over the next two calendar years, so that Members may assess the advantages to the new in-house Enforcement Service following the expected transition period. The Member also acknowledged that during the transition period, the data of the Civil Parking Enforcement Team would not be included however, Members would appreciate updates on the outcomes of the Team. The Chairman also referred to the number of tickets issued falling in recent years and raised the concern of the service possibly costing more in the future if the volume of tickets was not increased. The Officer, in response, stated that in an ideal situation, the Local Authority would not require any enforcement section at all due to all individuals complying with the rules of the Authority. However, to date there had always been a necessary need identified for the service and officers would be planning to review the service on a regular basis. However, in the current financial climate and based on the feasibility figures set out in the officer’s report, the Local Authority had the opportunity to explore potential income streams whilst having greater control over its workforce.

In conclusion, the Officer highlighted an error in paragraph 6.9 of the report and advised that the Enforcement Supervisor role should be stated as a Grade G and not a Grade F and the Enforcement Officer role should be a Grade F and not a Grade G. In addition, the Officer wished to highlight that it would not be lawful or ethical for the Vale of Glamorgan Council to set enforcement ‘targets’ and therefore, the data contained within the Report was presented to give context for viability only.

The Scrutiny Committee subsequently

RECOMMENDED -

- (1) T H A T the error as highlighted in paragraph 6.9 of the officer’s report be noted.
- (2) T H A T a recommendation be referred to Cabinet to establish a central (to the Vale of Glamorgan area) base of operation for both the Environment and Highways Enforcement Team and the Civil Parking Enforcement Team under a new in-house enforcement model.
- (3) T H A T a recommendation be referred to Cabinet that body cameras be purchased and utilised by all members of Enforcement staff.
- (4) T H A T a recommendation be referred to Cabinet that any alleged issues identified amongst staff employed by the current provider be addressed prior to the establishment of a new in-house enforcement model.
- (5) T H A T a recommendation be referred to Cabinet that the Local Authority purchase and install its own supply of CCTV enforcement equipment.

(6) T H A T a recommendation be referred to Cabinet that the Vale of Glamorgan in-house Enforcement Service operates during weekend and bank holiday hours.

(7) T H A T the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee receives six monthly monitoring reports on progress achieved during a new in-house Enforcement Service model.”

Cabinet, having considered the reference, the recommendations of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and the Cabinet report of 18th February, 2019

RESOLVED -

(1) T H A T the Cabinet proposals of 18th February, 2019 together with Recommendations (1), (3), (4) (5) and (6) of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee meeting of 7th March, 2019 be endorsed.

(2) T H A T the use of article 14.14.2(ii) of the Council’s Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in respect of Resolution (1) above.

Reasons for decisions

(1) Having regard to the Resolutions of Cabinet on 18th February, 2019 and consideration of the Recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee of 7th March, 2019.

(2) In view of the need to make a determination in respect of the termination of the existing contract by 31st March, 2019.”