



# Notes of evidence

Name of meeting

**POLICY COMMISSION FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES**

Date and time

**THURSDAY, 27 MARCH 2008 AT 6.00 PM**

Venue

**COMMITTEE ROOM ONE, COUNTY HALL, NEWPORT**

Commission

Cllrs David Williams (Chair), Henry Adams, Mike Cunningham, Heather Humby, Susan Scoccia, and Jilly Wood

Cabinet

Other Councillors

Officers Present

Louise Biggs, Overview and Scrutiny Team  
Jill Laurence-Tilley, Committee Administrator  
Stuart Love, Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods  
Zoryna O'Donnell, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods Partnership  
Peter Taylor, Traffic Manager, Engineering Services

Stakeholders

Apologies

Cllr Margaret Webster

**1. Notes of Evidence**

1.1 The notes of evidence from the meeting held on [3 January 2008](#) were agreed

**2. Declarations of Interest**

2.1 None received

**3. To receive an update on the outcomes of the Decriminalised Parking Blue Paper.**

3.1 Stuart Love informed the commission that the Councils adoption of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement on 4 April 2007 had progressed well and the following points were highlighted:

3.2 The "soft start" over the first month had allowed for a gradual introduction and had gone well.

3.3 Decriminalised Parking Enforcement occurred where a vehicle was parked on double yellow lines. Vehicles not parked on double yellow lines that represented a hazard were a police matter.

- 3.4 The yellow lines and signage costs were higher than estimated but all works had been completed, with parking anomalies and out of date restrictions attended to.
- 3.5 Less congestion and higher turnover of parking space availability had been reported back from the town centres.
- 3.6 Fewer tickets had been issued than provided for in the business model estimate, but the investment is on track to be paid back over the next 3 years.
- 3.7 It was confirmed that Parking Attendants do not have “targets” to reach for issuing tickets.
- 3.8 The Director of Environment and Neighbourhoods offered to provide the Policy Commission with details of the number and percentage of tickets that were contested.
- 3.9 The commission were advised that there is a judicial process and appeals can be put to the Council with an adjudication process available if concerns are raised over issued tickets.
- 3.10 The introduction of Parking Attendants had gone well and a guarantee that the Council would be robust in its prosecution of any offences against its officers was confirmed.
- 3.11 One successful prosecution had led to an offender’s imprisonment, and one incident where an attendant had given life saving medical assistance was noted.
- 3.12 The commission were advised that Parking Attendants patrol from 8am to 6pm seven days a week. Parking Attendants work in pairs on late shifts to tackle hotspots. There was also provision for early morning teams to deal with any overnight/early morning offences of illegal parking.
- 3.13 It was reported that Town Centre Managers were working well with the Parking Attendants to ensure maximum effect and no duplication of roles.
- 3.14 A good response of over 50 applications to become Parking Attendants led to 27 Parking Attendants being engaged and these are considered to be sufficient for all year cover; this will be reviewed after a 6 months period.
- 3.15 The original business case for decriminalised parking enforcement considered that it would take the Council three years to recoup the costs of implementing the scheme, although this was likely to be sooner.

- 3.16 The Policy Commission considered that the Parking Attendants looked smart in their uniforms and were good ambassadors for the public face of the Council.
- 3.17 Officers were congratulated by the Policy Commission on a smooth introduction of Decriminalised Parking and it was agreed that the Island would benefit from the decriminalisation of parking enforcement both environmentally and financially.
- 3.18 There was a timetable for the review of double yellow lines throughout the Island; the Council's Traffic Manger would provide the Policy Commission with this timetable.

**The meeting closed at 6.33 pm**

CHAIRMAN