

Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

14th July 2010

Report of

Councillor Noonan

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies - Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside of London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC) 2009-2010

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of the Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside of London Adjudication Joint Committee (PATROLAJC) and the details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member (City Services) and the Cabinet Member (City Development) be reappointed to act as Coventry City Council's Representative and Deputy Representative respectively on the joint committee.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 Coventry City Council became responsible for parking enforcement throughout the City in April 2005 when the function was transferred from the West Midlands Police. At this juncture parking enforcement was decriminalised. Subsequently, Coventry City Council became known as a Civil Parking Enforcement Authority.
- 3.2 The PATROLAJC has been established to enable those Councils outside of London who are undertaking civil parking enforcement, to exercise their functions under Section 81 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.
- 3.3 The Agreement that regulates the formation of the PATROLAJC allows for one Representative from each constituent Council.
- 3.4 Meetings of the PATROLAJC are relatively infrequent at approximately 6 monthly intervals. Attendance is not mandatory.
- 3.5 The primary objective of the PATROLAJC on behalf of its constituent councils is to appoint a cost effective and fair adjudication service that is visibly independent from the local authorities in whose areas the adjudicators are working.
- 3.6 The appointed Independent Adjudicators deal with appeals against penalty charge notices for parking contraventions and bus lane contraventions that are issued by the enforcement authority (i.e. Coventry City Council).
- 3.7 The PATROLAJC has appointed Traffic Penalty Tribunal as its Adjudicators to provide adjudication services on behalf of its constituent councils.

3.8 The PATROLAJC commissions and receives an annual report on the adjudication service from the Adjudicators. It also produces and publishes an annual report to the appropriate National Authority on the discharge of functions by the Adjudicators.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The PATROLAJC is not involved in the day-to-day delivery of the adjudication service. Its role is limited to the appointment of the Adjudicators, ensuring the provision of accommodation and administrative support, and the approval of the service's budget.

4.2 Manchester City Council is appointed to act as the lead authority on behalf of the PATROLAJC.

4.3 The main benefit to Coventry City Council of being a member of the PATROLAJC is that the Council is able to access the national adjudication service. In so doing the Council is able to comply with a legal requirement under Section 80 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 which entitles any person receiving a penalty charge notice for a parking contravention (or bus lane contravention) to appeal to an Adjudicator if the Council has not accepted his / her formal representation. Without which, the Council would not be able to undertake civil parking enforcement.

4.4 Furthermore, the appointment of the Adjudication service by the PATROLAJC enables the Council to exercise its legal duty in regard to section 81 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 The City Council representatives on PATROLAJC are Councillors Noonan and Ridley. The Annual Meeting, was held in June, 2009 and neither councillor attended. Councillor Noonan attended a meeting held at the Motor Museum in Birmingham.

5.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies

Location Council House, Room 60