

EX92. POLICE SCOTLAND PROPOSALS TO WITHDRAW THE TRAFFIC WARDENS SERVICE AND DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The Executive considered a report by the Director of Development Services advising of a review by Police Scotland of its traffic warden service provision together with the level of public service at police offices.

Police Scotland propose to withdraw the duties carried out by the traffic wardens across its divisions including Falkirk. Details were given of the consultation exercise and the likely timescale for the withdrawal of the service, together with the implications for Falkirk Council in terms of parking enforcement.

Currently 11 Scottish Councils operate a Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Scheme (DPE), with the effect that responsibility for enforcement of parking offences lies with the authority and not the police. The process for establishing a DPE scheme was described together with the legal, personnel and financial impact.

Correspondence between the Chief Executive and the Local Commander on the proposal were circulated with the report.

Concern was expressed at the manner in which the consultation had been carried out and how meaningful it was in addition to the short timescale in which to identify any alternative provision.

Decision

The Executive:-

- (1) endorsed the terms of the letter dated 7 November 2013 to Chief Superintendent Flynn as the Council's position on the proposals including forwarding a copy to COSLA, and**
- (2) instructed the Director of Development Services to begin early preparation of a business case to support any application to the Scottish Government for decriminalisation of parking enforcement pending a decision by Police Scotland, and report back in due course.**