



CIVIL BUS LANE ENFORCEMENT IN GATESHEAD

Jane Robinson, Chief Executive

Mike Barker, Strategic Director, Corporate Services and Governance

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of bus lane traffic contraventions in Gateshead and to set the charge level for the contraventions and to nominate a Councillor to the Bus Lane Adjudication Joint Committee.
2. A move to more sustainable modes of travels is a key focus of local, regional and national transport policy. Bus use per capita remains higher in North East England than in any other region of the country outside London.
3. The Council received the statutory power to undertake bus lane enforcement in 2007, at the same time as civil parking enforcement were granted however, the Council's bus lane enforcement powers have never been utilised and the power to enforce bus lanes within the borough has fallen to the Police alone.
4. Regulations enable traffic authorities to allow certain classes of vehicles other than buses to use bus lanes without the need for special authorisation. Councils introducing bus lane enforcement should determine their general approach to such exemptions and should also determine the level of a penalty charge. The Council must also formally appoint one of its members to the Bus Lane Adjudication Joint Committee.
5. Enforcement would initially be by means of the Council's existing approved mobile CCTV vehicle, but it is expected that a system of fixed CCTV cameras would be utilised once driver behaviours become clearer.
6. The Cabinet has considered the facts and issues arising from the report including alternative options and took all relevant advice before formulating their recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION

7. It is recommended that Council:
 - i) Approves the Code of Practice relating to the use of CCTV for Civil Parking and Bus Lane Enforcement and connected purposes, as set out in Appendix 4 of the attached report
 - ii) Amends the Constitution to give delegated authority to the Service Director, Development, Public Protection and Transport Strategy to carry out the statutory procedure to introduce and operate civil bus lane

enforcement and to make such technical amendments to the Council's Code of Practice for CCTV Enforcement as may be required to comply with changes to national legislation or guidance, or decisions of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal

iii) Approves the level of Penalty Charge for bus lane contraventions at £60