

Extract from the Joint Strategic Committee - 8 October 2015

JSC/040/15-16 Devolution of some Highways powers from WSCC to Adur-Worthing Councils in regards of A Board and Tables and Chairs Licensing on the public highway

Before the Committee was a report by the Director for the Economy, copies of which had been circulated to all Members and a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these Minutes as Item 5.

The report set out a proposal from West Sussex County Council (the Highway authority) to transfer / devolve part of its Highway enforcement powers, under Section S115E of the Highways Act 1980, to Adur and Worthing Councils.

Members noted that West Sussex County Council had charged a one off fee of £412.00 for the first year and subsequently £220.00 per annum for a table and chairs licence. Concerns had been raised by Officers as to how the fee structure could work at a local level. Some smaller cafes, for instance, only had room for one small table and two chairs. It seemed more appropriate to consider fees in relation to square footage available and consideration was being given to a fee structure of £50.00 per square metre of highway land occupied for the placement of tables and chairs.

A Member questioned the level of charges and Officers advised that the charge would apply to tables and chairs on the highway only. An existing scheme was in place but at present, charging was inconsistent.

The report included a proposal to introduce a pilot scheme in Warwick Street, Worthing and the town centre, Shoreham initially; and following these areas, if successful, the pilot would then be rolled out across the borough. Officers agreed to consider the inclusion of Montague Place, Worthing in the pilot.

The importance of engaging with local businesses was discussed as was the cost of implementing and operating the scheme.

Decision

The Joint Strategic Committee:-

- 1) agreed the responsibility for the scheme be with the Executive Member for Environment in respect of Adur District Council and the Executive Member for Regeneration in respect of Worthing Borough Council;
- 2) **agreed that the final detail of the scheme, including charges, be delegated to the Executive Member for Environment in respect of Adur District Council and the Executive Member for Regeneration in respect of Worthing Borough Council.**