

Forward Plan reference number: N/A

Report title: Extension of Parking Partnerships Joint Committee Agreements	
Report to: Andrew Cook, Director for Highways & Transportation	
Report author: Liz Burr, Head of Network & Safety	
Date: 28.03.2022	For: Decision
Enquiries to: Liz.Burr@essexhighways.org	
County Divisions affected: All Essex	

1. Everyone's Essex

- 1.1 The Council is the authority responsible for the enforcement of decriminalised on street parking contraventions. Since 2011, these functions have been discharged jointly with district councils – who deal with off street contraventions - via two Joint Committees – one in the north of Essex and one in the south of Essex.
- 1.2 The current agreements come to an end in March 2022. This report asks the Executive Director to agree to a short-term (3 month) extension of the current Joint Committee Agreements.
- 1.3 The proposals fit with the authority's aspirations around climate change by continuing to have effective regulation of disruptive parking and encouragement of sustainable travel, thus helping to reduce carbon emissions in Essex.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That the existing terms of the Joint Committee Agreement (JCA) for North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) is extended for a period of three months or until the new joint committee agreement for NEPP is agreed, whichever is the earlier.
- 2.2 That the existing terms of the JCA for South Essex Parking Partnership (SEPP) is extended for a period of three months or until the new joint committee agreement for SEPP is agreed, whichever is the earlier.
- 2.3 That the parties to NEPP and SEPP extended JCAs are those parties that have signed the extension letter by 31.03.2022.

3 Background and Proposal

- 3.1 On 21 September 2021, Cabinet approved that new joint committee agreements could be entered to continue with the work of the NEPP and the SEPP (see FP/106/07/21).

- 3.2 To ensure continuity of the existing service provision pending finalisation of that new joint committee agreement, it is necessary to extend the existing JCA for a short period of time to allow all parties to review and agree the proposed JCA. Both Joint Committees have indicated their agreement in principle to the new proposal and a draft JCA has been developed with officers of ECC, NEPP and SEPP, which is ready to be re-circulated for final comment.
- 3.3 To this end, it is recommended that both parking partnerships current JCAs are extended for a short period of time (three months) or until the new joint committee agreement for that partnership is agreed, whichever is the earlier.
- 3.4 It is possible that not all existing members of the parking partnerships would agree to the extension. In that case, the parties of the extended JCAs would be those parties that have signed the extension letter by 31.03.2022.
- 3.5 In the event that a party does not agree to the extension of the relevant JCA, the core parking services for which Essex County Council ("ECC") is responsible would continue to be delivered through ECC's arrangements with the relevant parking partnership. However, that local authority would not be a party, or beneficiary, of the relevant parking partnership unless and until that local authority agreed to the new joint committee agreement for the relevant parking partnership.

4 Links to our Strategic Ambitions

- 4.1 This report links to the following aims in the Essex Vision
- Strengthen communities through participation
 - Develop our County sustainably
 - Connect us to each other and the world
 - Share prosperity with everyone
- 4.2 Approving the recommendations in this report will have the potential to impact on the Council's ambition to be net carbon neutral by 2030 through the management of on street parking.
- 4.3 This report links to the following strategic priorities in the emerging Organisational Strategy 'Everyone's Essex':
- A strong, inclusive and sustainable economy
 - A high quality environment
 - Health wellbeing and independence for all ages
 - A good place for children and families to grow

5 Options

1.1 Option 1: Do nothing, let the parking partnerships lapse, and provide service in-house (not recommended)

1.1.1 This option would be contrary to Cabinet decision FP/106/07/21.

1.2 Option 2: Extend the JCAs on a short-term basis pending agreement of new joint committee agreements (recommended)

1.2.1 This option will enable parking partnership continuity and facilitate Cabinet decision FP/106/07/21.

2 Issues for consideration

2.1 Financial implications

2.1.1 The proposal to extend the Joint Committee Agreements for three months, or until the new joint committee agreements for that partnership are in place, whichever is earlier is not anticipated to impact upon the ongoing operation of the partnership's business as usual activities because there is sufficient income forecast and held by the Partnerships to cover the costs of the service, and therefore the agreements are expected to continue to have a net nil budgetary impact to the authority. At the current time it is not envisaged that this timeframe change will materially impact on the objectives outlined within the new joint committee agreements regarding the allocation of surplus funding, and this will be closely monitored during the 2022/23 financial year.

2.2 Legal implications

2.2.1 The JCAs for NEPP and SEPP contain extension provisions that have been used.

2.2.2 Despite this, the parties to the agreement can agree to continue beyond the expiry.

2.2.3 If the recommendation is accepted, the JCAs will continue for those parties that agree before the expiry date.

3 Equality and Diversity Considerations

3.1 The Public Sector Equality Duty applies to the Council when it makes decisions. The duty requires us to have regard to the need to:

- (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other behaviour prohibited by the Act. In summary, the Act makes discrimination etc. on the grounds of a protected characteristic unlawful
- (b) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- (c) Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not including tackling prejudice and promoting understanding.

- 3.2 The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion or belief, gender, and sexual orientation. The Act states that 'marriage and civil partnership' is not a relevant protected characteristic for (b) or (c) although it is relevant for (a).
- 3.3 The equality impact assessment indicates that the proposals in this report will have a disproportionately adverse impact on any people with a particular characteristic.

4 List of Appendices

Equalities Impact Assessment

5 List of Background papers

None.

The 'sign off' boxes below are deleted for cabinet reports but not for CMAs.

I approve the above recommendations set out above for the reasons set out in the report.	Date
Andrew Cook, Acting Executive Director for Place and Public Health	30/03/2022

In consultation with:

Role	Date
Executive Director, Corporate Services (S151 Officer) Please send to your Head of Finance/Finance Business Partner who will arrange S151 sign off.	29.03.2022
Karen Williams on behalf of Nicole Wood	