

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

20 SEPTEMBER 2018

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee (Constitution incorporating a scheme of delegation approved by the Council on 14th May 2013)

Subject: Funding for Security Works to include a barrier controlled entrance and exit and integrated payment system at Newark Lorry Park

Appropriate Committee: Policy & Finance Committee

Details of Item

Over the past 6 months there has been increasing criminal activity within Newark Lorry Park. This has been a mixture of criminal damage to vehicles and thefts from vehicles parked overnight on the lorry park. There has in the past been sporadic cases of thefts from vehicles, however, these recent cases are more organised and more targeted and are, in the opinion of the police, the activities of a gang operating along the A1 corridor between Cambridge and Leeds.

The thefts started in September 2017 and have targeted high value goods such as designer clothes and large screen televisions. The thefts were taking place in the early hours of the morning and in response to the first thefts roving security was put in place between the hours of midnight and 5.00am. However, the organised nature of the thefts meant that they were able to avoid the security that was in place and the thefts continued. The cost of the roving security was £150 per week.

Many vehicles parking in the lorry park are now signed up to the national pre-paid fleet card system known as SNAP. This organisation contacted the Council to express their concerns about the thefts and whether they could continue to support the Newark lorry park with their card users. In order to satisfy them of the intention to control the problem the roving security was upgraded to permanent security for a 9 hour period through the night. This was at a cost of £1050 per week.

This was very successful resulting in no incidents during their period of operation. This also coincided with the police making some arrests. In view of this and after discussions with the police it was decided to revert back to the roving security. Unfortunately within two weeks there were more thefts from vehicles on the lorry park.

Officers met with representatives of SNAP and one of the options discussed was the installation of a barrier controlled entry and exit system. This system is linked to an ANPR system that logs all vehicles entering and exiting the site as well as providing automatic payment facilities.

Barrier systems such as the one proposed have been installed at other sites similar to Newark and not only have they increased security but they have also increased the overall income taken as no vehicle can leave the site without making payment. Figures from these sites indicate that an average increase of 15% could be achieved.

It is considered appropriate to have the barrier, ANPR cameras and the payment system all linked together to provide an integrated security and payment option. As over 65% of the vehicles using the lorry park are now using a SNAP card it also seems appropriate to install system that can meet the needs of these users.

The proposal will:-

1. Protect current levels of income by providing reassurance to users of the lorry park and prevent migration to other sites
2. Negate the need for expenditure of £1050 per week for full time overnight security
3. Potentially increase income by 15% estimate by ensuring all users pay to use the site during periods when it is currently unstaffed

There will be a need to continue with full time security until the system is installed. Therefore additional revenue provision for the 2018/19 budget will be required to meet the costs of the security during this interim period.

The installation of the barrier and payment system can be considered in isolation of the lorry park extension project as the scheme can be installed without any conflict to any proposals.

It is estimated that these works will cost around £35,000 to £40,000.

Decision:

Agreed that:

- a) an additional capital budget of £40,000 be provided to fund the installation of a barrier and entry control system to Newark Lorry Park;
- b) a single tender based on specialist provider can be used; and
- c) an additional revenue funding for security staff during the interim period be provide for the 2018/19 budget.

Members Consulted:

Councillor Roger Blaney – Leader of the Council

Council David Staples – Leader of the Opposition

Councillor David Lloyd - Chair of Economic Development Committee

Councillor Keith Girling – Vice Chair of Economic Development Committee

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sanjiv Kohli", enclosed within a thin, hand-drawn oval border.

Date: 14.03.18

Sanjiv Kohli
Director - Resources