



note from the chair

Executive Sub-Committee Members

The Joint Committee has appointed the following councillors to sit on its Executive Sub-committee for 2013/14

Jamie Macrae (CHAIR)
Cheshire East Council

Mike Carver (VICE CHAIR)
East Hertfordshire District Council

Stuart Hughes (ASST. CHAIR)
Devon County Council

Tony Page
Reading Borough Council

Jane Urquhart
Nottingham City Council

Ian Davey
Brighton & Hove Council

Peter Cooper
Carmarthenshire County Council

Peter Robinson
Tameside MBC

John Baverstock
South Hams District Council

Richard Bell
Sunderland City Council

David Chadwick
Bolton MBC

Roland Dibbs
Rushmoor Borough Council

John Leather
Cheshire West & Chester Council

Geraint Owens
City and County of Swansea

Sohail Munawar
Slough Borough Council

Alan Mitchell
Trafford MBC

Rachel Lancaster
Coventry County Council

Graham Beale
Wychavon District Council

Andrew Bosmans
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council



I am delighted to introduce this inaugural edition of the PATROL newsletter, which aims to keep members abreast of developments. PATROL stands for Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London and comprises what must be the largest Joint Committee of local authorities (300) in England and Wales.

The Joint Committee's main functions are to make provision for independent adjudication through the Traffic Penalty Tribunal as well as supporting public information initiatives which are common to its members.

I was honoured to be appointed Chair in 2013 following the ten year tenure of Councillor Ken Gregory of Thanet Council. The Joint Committee is grateful for the support and commitment of Cllr. Gregory in taking the Joint Committee from a membership of 10 in 1999 to over 300 today.

PATROL is well placed to raise awareness of traffic management issues outside the capital both from the experience of local authorities and the findings of adjudicators.

I hope the following will give you a flavour of PATROL's activities and initiatives.

Cllr. Jamie Macrae



news

Change In Host Authority

The Joint Committee appointed Cheshire East Council to become the Host Authority with effect from April 2013. During the first twelve months, its officers have worked hard to support the Joint Committee whilst respecting the independence of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal which relocated its offices and 23 staff from Manchester to Wilmslow, benefiting from excellent transport links with the South of England and Wales.



George Osborne MP for Tatton, meets with the Traffic Penalty Tribunal's Tom Wetton at the official opening.

* Did You Know?

- The Traffic Penalty Tribunal considers around 19,000 cases a year - about 3000 of these relate to bus lane PCNs.
- The Tribunal considers cases in a variety of ways:
 1. Without a Hearing (based on written submissions) - 60%
 2. Telephone Hearings - 22%
 3. Face to Face Hearings - 18%
- Councils in England & Wales (outside London) issue around 4.3 million tickets a year, which is a slight reduction from the previous year.
- The Tribunal maintains an online database of around 12,000 Traffic Regulation Orders. Has your council submitted theirs?

The Traffic Penalty Tribunal

The Traffic Penalty Tribunal is an independent tribunal where impartial lawyers consider appeals by motorists and vehicle owners whose vehicles have been issued with:

- Parking Penalty Charge Notices (or have been removed or clamped) by councils in England, and Parking and Bus Lane Penalty Charge Notices in Wales enforcing parking under the Traffic Management Act 2004
- Penalty Charge Notices by Councils in England undertaking civil bus lane enforcement under the Transport Act 2000

The principal objective of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal is to provide independent, impartial and well considered decisions based on fact and law in a way that is user-focused, efficient, timely, helpful and readily accessible.

The Traffic Penalty Tribunal operates across England (outside London) and Wales with its Adjudicators and Hearing Centre Supervisors working remotely and from hearing venues in over 30 locations. The Traffic Penalty Tribunal has 32 Adjudicators including a Chief Adjudicator.

Hearings, except in cases which are decided on the papers, are conducted by telephone and face to face.

Technology is central to the whole operation with adjudicators accessing the Tribunal's case management system remotely. The Tribunal actively encourages parties to correspond with the Tribunal electronically.

Transport Select Committee

The Chief Adjudicator (Caroline Sheppard) and PATROL's Head of Service (Louise Hutchinson) gave evidence to the House of Commons Transport Committee, Seventh Report of Session 2013-14 "Local Authority Parking Enforcement". The Committee which reported in 2013, made a number of recommendations on pavement parking; town centre impact; workplace parking levy; impact on businesses and council revenues and refunds from parking; signage; incentives; cameras and enforcement technology and foreign vehicles. The Committee called for a transparent and common sense approach to parking enforcement. The Tribunal also welcomes the committee's recommendation for the introduction of regulations enabling adjudicators to allow appeals where councils have failed to follow Statutory Guidance.



Caroline Sheppard

Adjudicators

The Traffic Penalty Tribunal has appointed 14 new adjudicators drawn from across England and Wales to bring the complement back to its position in 2005.

The Joint Committee noted the sad news of the deaths of three adjudicators in service in 2013: Clifton Barker, Sarah Breach and Richard Charles CBE.

The adjudicators would particularly welcome these additional powers, this could be particularly useful in cases involving camera cars for example, which must be used for a very specific purpose.

Government response to Transport Committee and DfT Consultation

The Government has recently published its response to the Transport Committee Report on local authority parking enforcement. In its response the government note the conclusions of the committee and agree with many of their recommendations. These include consulting on a 25% reduction for those who pay their PCN following an unsuccessful appeal to the adjudicators, freezing the maximum penalty charge and calling on all councils to improve transparency by publishing data and producing an Annual Report.

The Department for Transport has recently undertaken a public Consultation on Local Authority Parking Strategies and the options the Government are considering to change the balance of how parking is enforced. The aim of these changes is to ensure that strategies enhance the attractiveness of the high street. Some of the options being considered by the Government include; abolishing the use of CCTV cameras to enforce on-street parking; introducing a 'grace period' for motorists before a ticket is issued; updating guidance to emphasise a less heavy handed approach by councils, giving communities and businesses rights to require councils to review their strategies, and whether all yellow lines are appropriate.

The Joint Committee's response can be found at:

http://www.patrol-uk.info/downloads/PATROLConsultation_Response.pdf

Enforcement of Moving Traffic Contraventions – Wales

In March 2013 the Welsh Assembly Government adopted the powers available to them under the Traffic Management Act 2004 allowing Local Authorities in Wales to enforce moving traffic contraventions such as waiting in box junctions and driving in bus lanes (previously enforced under the Transport Act 2000). Wales has overtaken England (outside London) in this respect where the powers have yet to be adopted. As yet, no Welsh councils have commenced enforcing moving traffic contraventions though it is expected that this will begin later this year.

New Appeals For The Traffic Penalty Tribunal

The Dartford River Crossing will be made "free flow" in October 2014 and toll payment will be required on-line. The Joint Committee is making arrangements with the Secretary of State to provide access to adjudication through the Traffic Penalty Tribunal.

* New Councils 2013

Parking

Malvern Hills
District Council

Flintshire County Council

Daventry District Council

Bromsgrove District
Council

Craven District Council

Hambleton District
Council

Richmondshire District
Council

Ryedale District Council

Selby District Council

Bus Lanes

Kent County Council

City of York Council

PATROL Annual Report Award

A mandatory requirement for local authorities to produce annual parking reports is one of the recommendations of the Government's Transport Committee's report.

As far back as 2003 the adjudicators of the Traffic Penalty Tribunal called for greater transparency and public information. In response to this and with the introduction of the Traffic Management Act in 2008, the PATROL Joint Committee established an award for the best Parking Annual Report in order to promote and share best practice amongst its member councils. Now in its fourth year, the award is judged by an Independent Review Group combining expertise in traffic management and communication.

Currently a third of local authorities outside London produce a report on their enforcement activities, many of those councils have demonstrated that it is possible to provide information on the challenges of local parking as well as the council's objectives and financial information.



Reports which have been commended for their comprehensive and accessible local coverage have included: Torbay Council, City of York, Stoke City Council, Sheffield Council and Brighton & Hove City Council.

Chair of the PATROL Joint Committee, Councillor Jamie Macrae said 'The Joint Committee has championed improved parking information through both its Annual Report Award and public information website and welcomes the Transport Committee's recommendation in this respect.'



Visit the PATROL stand at the LGA Annual Conference and Exhibition 2014 (Bournemouth 8-10 July 2014)



Left to right: Shappi Khorsandi, Jade Gillham, Lizzie Unwin, Caroline Sheppard & Gareth Morgan

Award for Generation whY

The Generation whY team and Caroline Sheppard have been awarded the Inspiration Award at the 2014 British Parking Awards. The award itself is a tribute to the late Lynn Witham, of consultancy Parking Associates. The 'Parking Futures' project, co-ordinated by the Northumbria University Design School, was commissioned by the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, which was interested to understand the perspective of young people on the challenges of civil parking enforcement. The team looked at the future of parking and how it can be improved. They focused on three areas; Evolve, Educate and Engage. Team member Lizzie Unwin explains:

'**Evolve**' looked at the role of the Civil Enforcement Officer and the relationship that they have with the public. This included a re-branding of the CEO, creating Parking Gurus, providing them with more roles that improve communication with the public. The new roles included reporting on-street problems, such as broken lights and poorly painted lines to tweeting photos of poor parking to a live feed. An evolution within the role also led the way for Community Parking Gurus who would put forward projects for their local area and have the chance to earn further qualifications. The re-brand also involved a change in uniform to make them more approachable.

'**Educate**' aimed to do exactly that, ranging from young inexperienced drivers to those that had been driving for most of their life. Ideas included a parking awareness course for those that receive 5 or more parking tickets, a kids programme with Gary the Guru as the star of the show and educational YouTube videos, explaining about signage and other aspects of parking which can often come across as confusing to the public.

'**Engage**' used the ever growing platform of social media to interact with the public. This strand would see billboards put up in the peripheries of cities and towns showing the public how many calories they would burn if they parked their car and walked in. Facebook campaigns gave the opportunity for the public to show what they would spend their £70 on instead of a parking fine.

The project has been well received by the parking community and the team are extremely proud to have been given this award.

PATROL

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The Patrol web site, in addition to information about the Joint Committee, provides public information about parking and bus lane regulations and the enforcement process

www.patrol-uk.info