

PATROL ADJUDICATION JOINT COMMITTEE

REPORT FOR RESOLUTION

DATE: 7th October 2008

AGENDA ITEM Number 11

SUBJECT: Local Annual Reports on Enforcement

JOINT REPORT OF: The Lead Officer on behalf of the Advisory Board

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To update the Joint Committee on requirements of the Traffic Management Act 2004 in relation to Local Authority Annual Reports on Enforcement. The Joint Committee is asked to consider making an award annually for the best annual report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee:

- [i] Note the requirement for Local Authorities to produce an annual report about their enforcement activities.
- [ii] Note that a more detailed report will be presented to the Joint Committee's Executive Sub Committee in January 2009.

CONTACT OFFICER

Louise Hutchinson, Joint Committee Services, PATROL, Barlow House, Minshull Street, Manchester Tel: 0161 242 5270

1. Introduction

The Traffic Management Act 2004 (TMA) came into force on 31 March 2008. A requirement of the Traffic Management Act 2004 is for local authorities to produce an annual report about their enforcement activities within six months of the end of each financial year. The "Operational Guidance to Local Authorities: Parking Policy and Enforcement" (March 2008) states that these reports should, as a minimum, cover financial and statistical data and has set out possible contents.

Prior to the introduction of the Traffic Management Act (2004) and in response to requests from the then National Parking Adjudication Service Joint Committee, The Adjudicators in their Annual Report for 2006 set out possible areas of content for annual reports. The Chief Adjudicator has long held the view that annual reports would benefit local authorities since it is clear that many councils are operating the scheme satisfactorily and more openness would enable the public to see that this is the case. The Adjudicators firmly take the view that published information of this nature will help to increase the public's understanding of civil parking enforcement at local level.

2. Joint Committee Annual Report Award

In order to promote best practice amongst councils for the production of Annual Reports to increase public awareness of the civil enforcement of parking, an award could be given for what was judged to be the best annual report. The award, in the form of a plaque or similar could be made at the annual meeting of the Joint Committee in June each year in respect of an annual report for the preceding financial year. Consideration will need to be given to an appropriate mechanism for judging and publication etc.

3. Recommendation

The Joint Committee notes the requirement for Local Authority Annual Reports and that a full report in respect of the proposed annual report award will be presented to the January 2009 meeting of the Joint Committee Executive Sub Committee.