

# Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet

Date: 24 July 2007

Portfolio Holder: Councillor C Whitbread

Item: 10(d)

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## 1. SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATE – APPOINTMENT OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT CONTRACTOR

### Recommending:

**That a revenue CSB supplementary estimate in the sum of £31,955 for 2007/08 be approved to meet the additional costs of the new parking enforcement contract and additional staffing resources relating thereto arising in the current financial year.**

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- 1.1 Following a competitive tendering exercise, we are proposing to appoint Vinci Park as the Council's parking enforcement contractor for the period of 1 October 2007 to 30 September 2012 (with an option to extend to 2014) in the sum of £721,579 per annum.
- 1.2 The budget allocated for 2007/08 for the present contract is £682,670. The new contract, therefore, represents CSB growth of £38,909 for the full year. However, given that the new contract will not commence until 1 October 2007, CSB growth for 2007/08 will be £19,455.
- 1.3 Although CSB growth is regrettable it should be noted that all of this arises from the very necessary changes to service and accommodation provision through:
  - (a) an enhanced service provision through a parking shop where the contractor's management and customer interface staff will operate;
  - (b) meeting Disability Discrimination Act and Health and Safety requirements through the parking shop and upgrading the existing Burton Road location; and
  - (c) provision of modern ICT systems to replace existing systems.
- 1.4 Items (a) and (b) above alone account for £45,000 per annum of the tendered sum. It can be seen, therefore, that the base operational costs are actually less than the current contractual sum. It should also be recognised that the tender sum will take into account increases in parking restrictions throughout the District, which will require an enhanced level of enforcement.
- 1.5 Changes within the Traffic Management Act 2004 now require that the Council deals with all challenges to PCNs, including those at the initial stage that are currently dealt with by the contractor. This additional workload will equate to a 0.5 full time equivalent member of staff. Furthermore, when the Highways Agency reverted to Essex County Council, this Council was left with responsibility for a number of minor highway matters, such as street signs, bus shelters, street furniture and the like,

which the Parking Team have had to manage within the existing resources. As the Parking Service expands this is not sustainable and in order to ensure that all elements of the Parking Service and the residual Highways Service are effectively managed and delivered, an additional full time equivalent post is required with effect from October 2007 at a cost of £12,500 in 2007/08.

- 1.6 We recommend as set out at the commencement of this report.