

Item 9 - Question Time

Response to Miss J Campbell

Traffic Warden services are delivered in different ways across local authority areas, including some local authorities providing the service in some areas and in others it is provided by the police. At the Community Safety, Public Engagement and Equalities Committee, the pattern of service in Highland has been described as involving a mix of a small number of full-time and seasonal posts employed by the Police for Inverness and for some towns.

Following the Police Scotland review, the Council is working to identify how traffic enforcement duties can continue and that there is no loss of service in critical traffic areas. In the first instance this includes examining the opportunities to absorb the transfer of Traffic Warden duties within existing establishments. Resource implications are also being considered and further work will be undertaken to examine cost effective options to continue these services in the longer term. Members will be given the opportunity to debate the issues and to decide the Council's role.

The CPE Committee on 5th December also considered the issue of Police Scotland's decision to move away from employing traffic wardens. The Committee agreed that the Council would continue to work with Police Scotland to find a solution for the future, including seeking traffic offences to be decriminalised for new arrangements to be made in traffic management, including drawing on Council services. As the decriminalisation process is expected to take between 16 months and 2 years, Police Scotland will continue to have responsibility for traffic management over that period even if no traffic wardens are employed by them. At the Committee, Members expressed their concern on the timing and approach of Police Scotland's decision-making on this matter and have underlined their strong view that Police Scotland have a duty to enforce whilst these remain criminalised matters.