

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 31ST JANUARY 2007

ABANDONED VEHICLES UPDATE

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise and update the Committee on the current situation regarding abandoned vehicles and the implications of the End of Life Vehicle Directive.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 places a duty on local authorities to remove abandoned vehicles from land or roads within their area.
- 2.2 Normally abandoned vehicles are not roadworthy, are untaxed, attract vandalism and have a negative impact on the environment and removal of the vehicle is carried out following the statutory notice period.
- 2.3 The End of Life Vehicle Directive 2000/53/EC outlines and sets targets for Member States of the European Union for recycling of vehicles and their component parts and removing potentially polluting components from vehicles with no cost to the final owner of the vehicle.

3. OBLIGATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE DIRECTIVE

- 3.1 The End of Life Vehicle Directive 2000/53/EC and subsequent enabling Regulations place duties on producers, vehicle manufacturers, dismantlers and last owners of vehicles relative to recycling, recovery and prevention of pollution.
- 3.2 Scrap metal merchants have had to invest significantly to comply with the keeping and treatment of waste motor vehicles to become Authorised Treatment Facilities in terms of the End of Life Vehicles (Storage and Treatment) (Scotland) Regulations 2003.
- 3.3 East Ayrshire Council utilise the services of two local Authorised Treatment Facilities for the dismantling and treatment of abandoned vehicles notified in terms of the legislation. All abandoned vehicles uplifted to the treatment facility are recycled and potentially polluting materials removed for treatment. Costs are incurred for uplift and transport to the facility.

- 3.4 The requirements of the End of life Vehicle Directive includes the undernoted provisions.
- 3.4.1 From January 2007 the Government will require vehicle manufacturers to meet the costs of take-back and treatment of vehicles sold after 1st July 2002.
- 3.4.2 Last owners of such vehicles must be able to return their vehicles into collection systems free of charge from January 2007.
- 3.4.3 Adequate systems for the collection of End of Life vehicles have to be established.
- 3.4.4 Specific recycling and recovery targets have to be met by 2015 (95% recovery and a minimum of 85% recycling).
- 3.5 A major campaign supported by East Ayrshire Council and organised by Keep Scotland Beautiful and Cartakeback between August 2006 and the end of December 2006 encouraged people with unwanted vehicles in their gardens, yards and lock-ups to arrange to have them uplifted for free. This free service ended on 31st December prior to introduction of the End of Life Vehicle provisions in January 2007.
- 3.6 The number of abandoned vehicles dealt with by the Environmental Health Service between April 2006 and December 2006 was 60, a marked reduction in previous years.
- 3.7 Where abandoned vehicles are reported to the local authority the Environmental Health Service have computerised access to the DVLA database which identify the keeper of the vehicle and subsequent action is taken to formally notify the keeper of the vehicle for its removal and disposal.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 A reduction in costs to the Council should result in the implementation of the provisions of the Directive given a reduction in instances of abandoned vehicles.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978 and the End of Life Vehicle Directive 2000/53/EC.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The treatment and recycling of end of life and abandoned vehicles will enhance and protect the environment and supports the themes of Improving the Environment and Improving Community Safety within the Community Plan.

7. CONCLUSIONS

7.1 New provisions for the collection, treatment and disposal of end of life vehicles have been introduced as of January 2007 placing a responsibility on manufacturers for dealing with vehicles they have produced.

7.2 End of Life and abandoned vehicles must be disposed of to an Authorised Treatment Facility.

7.3 All abandoned vehicles dealt with by the Environmental Health Service are disposed of to one of two local Authorised Treatment Facilities at which all polluting materials are removed and the vehicles recycled.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 The Committee are recommended to:-

- (i) note the actions taken thus far in meeting the Council's obligations in terms of abandoned and end of life vehicles;
- (ii) continue to support the protection of the environment by removal, treatment and recycling of such vehicles; and
- (iii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/PLT/RRS

8th January 2007

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. End of Life Vehicle Directive (2000/53/EC)
2. End of Life Vehicle (Producer Responsibility) (Scotland) Regulations 2005.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone 01563 554021 and ask for Paul Todd.

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