

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2003**

#### **THE REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF VEHICLES AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2002**

##### **Report by Director of Community Services**

### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of new regulations which will help local authorities deal more quickly with the nuisance of abandoned cars.

### **2. DISCUSSION**

- 2.1 Ross Finnie MSP, Minister for Environment and Rural Development, announced on Monday 6 January that new regulations which will help local authorities deal more quickly with the nuisance of abandoned cars on Scotland's streets are set to come into force on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2003. The new measures will reduce the notice periods which councils must observe before dealing with abandoned vehicles.

- 2.2 The revised regulations will:-

- Reduce from seven days to 24 hours the notice for removal of a vehicle which appears to be in such a condition that it ought to be destroyed;
- Reduce from 21 days to seven days the period within which a vehicle, deemed by the local authority to be of some value, must be removed from the local authority's custody by the owner.

- 2.3 The reduction of notice periods is a devolved matter however it is part of a wider package of proposed measures being introduced at UK level to tackle the problem of tracing the ownership of, and dealing with, abandoned cars.

- 2.4 These are:-

- Giving local authorities new powers to act against unlicensed vehicles;
- Improving access by local authorities to the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) vehicle record, ensuring that they can obtain details of the registered keepers more quickly and easily;

- Developing proposals for changing the vehicle registration system to ensure that all vehicles can be associated with a registered keeper who has clear responsibility for meeting the costs and complying with responsibilities associated with the vehicle, until DVLA has been properly notified of a change of keepership.

2.5 Discussions are ongoing regarding these proposals and DTLR expect to make an announcement in due course.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 It is not possible to quantify the financial implications at present.

### **4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Removal and Disposal of Vehicles Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2002 which will come into force on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2003.

### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Environmental Strategy

### **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 New legislation will come into force on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2003 to reduce notice periods for the removal and disposal of abandoned cars.

### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

7.1 The Committee are asked to note the contents of this report.

William Stafford  
Director of Community Services

WS/JS

15<sup>th</sup> January 2003

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

1. Letter from Scottish Executive dated 9<sup>th</sup> January

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper above should telephone 01563 576023 and speak to William Stafford, Director of Community Services.

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