

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE – 25TH MARCH 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 15th 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 15th January 2003.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Environmental Strategy

6. CONCLUSION

6.1 New legislation will come into force on Monday 15th 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/JFC/KH

25th February 2003

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Letter from Scottish Executive dated 9th January

Any person wishing to inspect the background paper above should telephone 01563 576111 and speak to John Crawford, Head of Protective Services.

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