

Update on Abandoned Vehicles (Min 184/00)**1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 A report was submitted to Transport and Environmental Services Committee of 22 June 2000. The Committee resolved that an update report should be submitted to the next full Council.
- 1.2 Unfortunately the meeting of the Abandoned Vehicle Officer Working Group involving Essex County Council, District Councils and the Police was delayed until 20 July, hence this report follows and was not included on the agenda.

2 UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- 2.1 A letter has been sent to the Police, The Department of the Environment Transport and the Regions and County Councillors, seeking full co-operation in the process of dealing with abandoned vehicles on a County Wide basis as resolved at Transport and Environmental Services. A copy attached as Appendix A.
- 2.2 The meeting of the Officer Working Group was held on 20 July and the following issues were raised and considered:
 - 2.2.1 Essex County Council will pay full costs of disposal and storage of vehicles plus an element of administration subject to the District Councils having formal contracts with Disposal companies. Members should note that agreement to the seeking of tenders was endorsed at Transport and Environmental Services on 22 June 2000. However the County Council stated that they will not incur any costs until contracts are in place.
 - 2.2.2 The current letter of authority from ECC to the Districts to dispose of abandoned vehicles does not provide delegated authority contrary to previous opinion, and therefore this needs to be formalised and delegated authority given.
 - 2.2.3 Two further working groups were set up to look at specific issues, as the main group is too large. The groups are:-
 - A. To deal with the communications issues.
 - B. To draw up a model contract document based on best practice. It should be noted that some Districts have already drawn up tender documents and these will be shared. This group will meet on 9 August to consider and agree the documentation.

-
- 2.3 The main officer group will meet again on 19 September to affirm the contract documentation and monitor progress of the communications group.
- 2.4 It is intended that following this meeting, tenders should be sought and the delegated authority given by Essex County Council so that the County should start to pick up the costs as from 2001.

3 VEHICLE AMNESTY

- 3.1 As mentioned in the previous report a vehicle amnesty will be held by Housing to clear vehicles from Council estate car parks for Council tenants. This will take place in August, September and October. It is hoped that this will clear these areas of abandoned cars with a minimum of administrative process.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The approximate cost of dealing with abandoned vehicles until January 2001 will be in the order of £5,500 currently being met from the Fly tipping budget and internal virements.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Delegation of Authority to dispose of Abandoned Vehicles needs to be confirmed before the County Council will authorise any payment of Disposal costs.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Council **RESOLVES**

To note the progress on dealing with abandoned vehicles on a County wide basis. (CD(F&ES))

Roger Crofts

Corporate Director (Finance & External Services)

Background Papers:

None.

For further information please contact David Timson on (01702) 546366