

DEALING WITH ABANDONED VEHICLES - THE WAY FORWARD (Min 251/00)

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 A report was submitted to Full Council on 25th July 2000, who resolved that a further update report should be submitted to Transportation and Environmental Services in due course.
- 1.2 This report will also inform members of the current number of abandoned vehicles reported this year.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The problem with unwanted vehicles abandoned both on the public highway and on other land, is continuing, with the number of such vehicles still very high. The table below shows the volumes from 1997. Officers of the Council have attended meetings of the Abandoned Vehicle Officer Working Group, which includes Essex County Council, District Councils and the Police, in order to develop revised procedures and determine responsibility for associated costs on a Countywide basis.

YEAR	No of vehicles reported as abandoned.
1997	70
1998	147
1999	275
01/01/00 - 31/05/00	224 } 420 to date this year
01/06/00 - 31/08/00	196 }

3 UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- 3.1 Following the Officer Working Group's decision to set up two subsidiary Groups, this Authority attended the Group dealing with Model Contracts and Allocation of Costs.

- 3.2 Essex County Council are drafting a Model Contract for use between the Councils and their Contractors, which will be circulated to all Members of the Subsidiary Group ready for feed back at the next full Officer Working Group meeting to be held on 19th September 2000. The contract will cover all aspects relating to collection, storage and disposal of vehicles. However District Councils will retain the responsibility for collection costs of such vehicles under their duty to remove waste.
- 3.3 Further discussion regarding proposals for a vehicle amnesty will be required once the formal contracts are in place between the District Council and their Contractor, and this will be brought forward for Member consideration at that time
- 3.4 Representatives of this Authority informed Essex County Council that they will be claiming full reimbursement of costs incurred since being charged by the contractor. This will be for the storage and disposal element of the charges for which Essex County have accepted responsibility.
- 3.5 The second Subsidiary Group discussing Communication Procedures, have also met and will be feeding back to the full Officer Working group on the 19th September 2000.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The approximate cost to the end August 2000, is £11,100, and the forward projection for the year is approximately £18,500. This figure is the total cost of collection, storage and disposal and does not take into account any future reimbursement from Essex County Council.
- 4.2 This Council currently has a budget of £5,500. Keeping to that budget will depend on future numbers, the cost of collection of vehicles and reimbursement of other costs by Essex County Council.
- 4.3 The number of reported vehicles is placing an increasing demand on administrative resources within the Leisure and Client Services Department.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Following the agreement of the Model Contract the Council will also need to form a formal agreement with Essex County Council for the Delegation of Authority.

6 RECOMMENDATION

It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**

- 6.1 That Members note the progress on the development of processes and responsibilities to deal with abandoned vehicles on a Countywide basis. (CD(F&ES))

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Background Papers:

None

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