

ABANDONED VEHICLE UPDATE

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current situation regarding the removal of abandoned vehicles and in particular, the role of Essex County Council in this process.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. The number of abandoned vehicles around the District is an ongoing problem, as it is in many other Districts around the Country, due primarily to the fall in the price of scrap metal and scrapyards therefore charging people to take their vehicles.
- 2.2. Officers have been meeting with Essex County Council, along with Officers from the other Essex Districts, to progress the issue of apportioning the cost of removing and disposing of these vehicles.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Council currently uses C.J.W. Kirby Ltd., to collect and dispose of the abandoned vehicles on an ad hoc basis, for which the total cost is £30 per vehicle.
- 3.2 The discussions between the Districts and the County Council has centred around the County reimbursing the Districts for the element of this charge that covers the disposal, in order to satisfy their responsibility as the Waste Disposal Authority.
- 3.3. These discussions now seem to have produced a solution to this issue by agreement on the following procedure.
- 3.4 District Councils are to obtain tenders from a number of companies for dealing with the abandoned vehicles, breaking down the cost into collection and disposal per vehicle. They will also be asked to provide storage costs if this facility is required.

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- 3.5 The District Councils would then provide details of these bids to Essex County Council, along with the name of their chosen contractor, therefore demonstrating to the County that suitable market testing has taken place.
- 3.6 These prices will then be incorporated into a new Section 101 Agreement between each District Council and the County for the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles.
- 3.7 There will then be a contract between the District Council and its successful contractor once the 101 Agreement has been finalised.
- 3.8 The District Council will invoice Essex County Council for the disposal element of the "per vehicle" cost on a quarterly basis.
- 3.9 At present Essex County Council have also offered to contribute towards the administrative costs by paying an extra 5% of their disposal costs towards this element of the process. However, most Districts in the County expressed the view that this did not provide a fair split of the total administrative costs involved.
- 3.10 As a result, individual Districts were invited to write to the County with their view on the administrative cost apportionment. This Council has identified their total administrative cost and said that this should be shared in line with the percentage split of the successful contractor's collection/disposal costs, eg, if the successful bid was £30 per vehicle made up of £15 collection and £15 disposal, then our total administrative cost should be split 50/50. We are awaiting response from the County on this view.
- 3.11 At the time of writing this report, Officers are compiling a suitable list of contractors to invite to tender and envisage having these tenders returned mid October.
- 3.12 Essex County Council has also confirmed that they will backdate their disposal element of the cost to cover all vehicles processed since 1 April 2001.

4 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The effective and efficient collection of abandoned vehicles will contribute significantly to the environmental condition of the District.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The number of vehicles that were removed as abandoned during the calendar year 2000 was approximately 300 and therefore incurred a cost of approximately £9000. By signing a new Section 101 Agreement with the County, the District Council can significantly reduce its costs (the extent dependent on the disposal cost identified in the forthcoming tenders).
- 5.2 The Council will then receive a contribution from the County towards the administrative costs of dealing with abandoned vehicles.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council will need to enter into a formal agreement with Essex County for the delegation of authority and also a contract with the successful tenderer.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- i) That Members note the progress on the development of allocating costs and responsibilities for dealing with abandoned vehicles.
 - ii) That Members authorise Officers to proceed with invitations to tender for the collection and disposal of abandoned vehicles. (CD (F&ES))

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Background Papers:

None.

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