COMMUNITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

AGENDA ITEM: 5

DATE OF MEETING: 8th SEPTEMBER 2003

CATEGORY: RECOMMENDED

REPORT FROM:

CONTACT POINT:

WASTE & CLEANSING MANAGER

OPEN

MEMBERS'

PAUL EVANS (5764)

DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports/community scrutiny/8 sept 2003\bv - cleansing the

environment - progress on action plan.doc

SUBJECT:

BEST VALUE REVIEW - CLEANSING

THE ENVIRONMENT. PROGRESS ON

DELIVERING THE ACTION PLAN

REF: PE

WARD(S)

AFFECTED:

ALL

TERMS OF

REFERENCE: ES. 07,

08.09

Recommendations 1.0

That Members note the progress being made to deliver the Action Plan arising out of 1.1 the Cleansing the Environment Best Value Review.

Purpose of Report 2.0

To advise Members of the progress being made on the Action Plan arising out of the Best Value Review on Cleansing the Environment.

3.0 Detail

- This best value review was completed in Autumn 2001 and inspected in October 2001. The resulting action plan contains over 70 actions.
- 3.2 A summary of the progress made is attached at Annexe A. Progress since the previous report on 24th March is shown in italics.
- 3.3 Progress has been made on the following actions:

Home Composting

An initiative has been launched this year in partnership with Derby City Council and a private sector partner. 459 units have been sold to South Derbyshire residents so far.

Flytipping Iniative

A pilot project aimed at reducing flytipping commenced this June in the parishes of Findern and Twyford & Stenson.

Compost Scheme

The scheme was introduced to a further 2,400 households in Midway during the summer. A partnership arrangement with neighbouring Councils has been formed in order to procure suitable composting outlets in the future.

Kerbside paper collections

Agreement has been reached to implement fortnightly collections across the district with effect from this October (some households currently receive a monthly service).

Funding success

Government funding has been obtained for a pilot scheme for the kerbside collection of cans, bottles, textiles as well as paper from 12,000 households in the district. The Government funds the start-up costs (boxes, marketing, etc.) but subsequent revenue costs are borne by the Council. The scheme is scheduled to start in January.

- 3.4 The following issues, however, will impact on the programme for the delivery of actions scheduled for later this year:
 - The setting up of the new kerbside collection scheme described above.
 - The imminent closure of Bretby Landfill site and the rescheduling of the refuse collection rounds.
 - The introduction of a new Best Value Performance Indicator this year that requires 900 inspections of different categories of land every year.
 - · CPA.

A revised programme is being drafted for Members' consideration.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 None

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The action plan was devised to continually improve the Refuse Collection, Street Cleansing and Recycling services to the community.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Considerable progress is being made in delivering the action plan leading to a number of improvements already to services.
- 7.2 A revised programme needs to be considered in view of the new issues outlined above.

Cleansing the Environment Best Value Action Plan (Extract)

Annexe A

										·
6		5		4		ω			2	No.
Review wheelle bin size issue policy		Increase home composting	side refuse and requiring refuse to be contained in closed bin	Enforce policy of resisting		Monitor domestic waste arisings to support waste minimisation	joint approaches to waste with the South Eastern Derbyshire Sub Group	Waste Minimisation Plan Develop and implement	Develop and implement	Service Key Task
*	*	*	‡	•		÷ ÷	<u> </u>	*	*	
Review policy as part of waste minimisation plan	Provide after sales training to maximise usage	Maximise home composter sales in partnership with private sector supplier	monitoring Publicise and promote policy	Include visual checks in routine performance		Monitor levels of domestic waste arisings Sample content of domestic bins in high producing areas		Short term, low cost measures Plan produced and costed proposals	erbyshire, with	Action
April 2003		April 2003 and ongoing		Ongoing	÷	Ongoing		October 2003	April 2003	Timescale
	South Derbyshire residents so far.	New initiative with Derby City Council to offer reduced price mail order service, effective March	To be added to website information as soon as practicable	Done	high waste levels in district have been offered by District Audit and being pursued.	but progress limited by lack of budget.	Month in a component			Comments
conjunction with No.2	October start		October as part of Communications Plan						October 2003	Timescale

11 Review central services	of corpor	÷	10 Reduce vehicle				9 Maximise Trade Waste	*	clinical waste *	7 Improve employee	No. Service Key Task
Negotiate service levels, costs and services provided from central departments	of corporate plan for disposal of the depot	Consider partnerships / contract hire as part	Review vehicle replacement strategy / leases				Improve service to existing customers Market service to new customers	Minimise amount of clinical waste incinerated in conjunction with Integrated Waste Management Group and Community Health Services Trust	Review charging policy	Implement absence management policy	Action
March 2003	depot review process	years Ongoing with	March 2003 and every 2				Ongoing		Complete	Ongoing	Timescale
Subject to outcome of the Financial Services Best Value Review	present site. Intend to check competitivity of provision in the autumn	present Depot review confirmed	Vehicle replacement strategy under review at	showed a 76% satisfaction rating with the service.	to retain the business. A customer survey was carried out in May and it	about the scheme but prices have had to be cut	three years. The number	Done	Done	Done	Comments
May		October	October								Revised Timescale

	14															-	-	-		13				-	•	72	à	No.
	Establish a rapid response																Talls: Coulicis	Environment Agency and	nyupping plan win me	Develop and implement a				Dillig siles	bring sites	Improve cost effective less	The second official concess	Service Key Task
The state of the s	Purchase vehicle / equipment and recruit / train staff																			 Carry out Pilot Scheme 			* Identify alternative means of servicing			# - IVOLITOKO IOSSE BLOSSEGERO SUSSE	* Remove least productive sites	Action
	Completed	000000000000000000000000000000000000000																		April 2003	-						March 2003	Timescale
	COL	Dane	same period last year.	the trial compared to the	in the first two months of	reduced from to 25 to 16	Flytipping incidents have	the two parishes.	are being discussed with	the details of the initiative	has been prepared and	Agency. Publicity material	Police & Environment	been researched with the	study. The subject has	selected for the pilot	Stenson, have been	Findern & Twyford and	of them, in the parishes of	Flytipping "hot spots" have been identified. Four	complete	again after above action	Done – though to review	usage or remove	parishes to either promote	sites ongoing with	Current review of small	Comments
																				October							December	Revised Timescale

March 2003 September 2003	
Ensure full compliance within existing contract Review weedkillers used and pilot alternatives Carry out Pilot Scheme	Ongoing compliance checks Completed October 2003
	Ongoing Discussions held at Member level with the County Council and agreements reached. Further discussion now required with City Council
	Timescale

Service Key Task Action Acti	22	21	20	19	No.
		Ensure successful commencement of Brightstar Contract for total waste treatment	Increase amount of paper recycled by kerbside scheme	Increase amount of waste composted	Service Key Task
Action Introduce four further composting rounds to agreed programme Introduce two weekly schemes to all the composting areas Develop and promote scheme including regular monitoring of take up Complete agreement with Derby City Council for waste delivery process Revise operational plan to ensure timely delivery of waste material Make bids to funding bodies	*				
	Make bids to runding bodies	Complete agreement with Derby City Council for waste delivery process Revise operational plan to ensure timely delivery of waste material	Introduce two weekly schemes to all the composting areas Develop and promote scheme including regular monitoring of take up	er composting rounds	Action
	made to DEFRA for special funding to expand recycling but neither successful Funding has now been obtained for a pilot scheme for 12,000 households.	Awaiting information Iroin Derby City Council Two hids have been	Quarterly meetings now held with contractor to develop scheme. All households on the scheme to receive a fortnightly collection from October onwards.	By March 2003 scheme was operating in 8,000 properties. Scheme being implemented in 800 properties in March 2003, 2,400 in July 2003 & 3,500 in March 2004.	Comments
By March 2003 scheme was operating in 8,000 properties. Scheme being implemented in 800 properties in March 2003, 2,400 in July 2003 & 3,500 in March 2004. Done Quarterly meetings now held with contractor to develop scheme. All households on the scheme to receive a fortnightly collection from October onwards. Awaiting information from Derby City Council Two bids have been made to DEFRA for special funding to expand recycling but neither successful Funding has now been obtained for a pilot scheme for 12,000 households.	January 2004	Colored	2000		Revised Timescale

27 Re me				hig	hic	_	26 Inc			00	ple	25 Re	sci	rec		24 De	Str	Па	We		23 Re	No.	
Monitoring to grounds		Introduce Performance	Review grass cutting methods		quality	highways grass to improve	Increase number of cuts to			councils	placement with parish	Review bin provision and	scheme	recyclables collection	introducino a kerbside dry	Develop proposals for	Strategy	Eastern Area Sub Group	Waste Strategy and South	conjunction with Derbyshire	Review Recycling Plan in	Service Key Task	
	_	**	4	•	*	-	*		**	***	-	***			•	*			*		*		
	and Cleansing operations	Introduce monitoring system similar to Refuse	cutting by additional cylinder mowing	Devolor originways grass	Lobby D.C.C. to meet full costs of 12 cuts per	areas (POS) and highways grass (D.C.C.)	Increase number of cuts on Council owned	empty litter bins	Consider option for parish councils to	Implement proposals	bins -develop proposals	Review and revise position and provision of			neighbouring authorities	Develop schemes with private sector and			Full plan completed and approved	targets for 2003 and 2005	Short term action plan to meet statutory	Action	
	~	April 2003	2003	Sentember	Ongoing		April 2003	April 2004	2003	September		April 2003				March 2003			October 2003		Completed	Timescale	
							Done				NOS. IF ALL TO	No. 17 and 18	Daine developed with			See ZZ					Done	Comments	
		00000	October 2003		-							000000	October 2003									Timescale	Davisad

သ	32	31	30	·	29	No.
Develop quality standards on waste related services	Improve communication with Stakeholders on cleansing the environment issues	Clarify Member accountability for service and its development	Rationalise structure of Technical Services Division		Maximise effectiveness of existing partnerships for waste management activities	Service Key Task
*	*	÷ ÷	÷		÷ ÷	
Implement Technical Advisors Group (TAG) Quality monitoring frameworks for Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing and compare results with other users	Prepare a Communication Plan to include the following	Clarify accountability in a report to Members Report progress on Clean Team implementation plan to Policy and Scrutiny Committees	Clearly apportion responsibilities for Waste Management and Grounds Maintenance between two units	and neighbouring authorities	Improve dialogue and set targets with existing partners Develop new partnerships with private sector	Action
April 2003		Ongoing	April 2003		December 2001 March 2003	Timescale
Started		Ongoing	Proposals agreed by Policy Committee in February. Implementation now underway (Now completed)	potential contractors for composting, including joint discussion with Derby City, East Staffordshire and Amber Valley	Dialogue improved for paper recycling and composting but no agreed targets yet. (Targets currently being agreed).	Comments
				11 × 2003		Timescale

37				-		သ စ		ယ		-	34		No.	
Assess competitiveness of the service.													Service Key Task	A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR
Obtain external advice on comparability of unit rates.					Status to Leviewed advisors	Develop a proposal to obtain organization	* Devolop a proposal to obtain Chartermark	Decorle and Places Programme	Description of the Tidy Britain Groups	for Grass Cutting	Work with TAG to produce quality framework	1	Action	A 24:25
August 2003			•	· .			October 2003	7	April 2003		April Zous			Timescale
:	2004.	applications until January	the processing of	subsequent "freeze" on	Scheme – there is a	revised the Chartermark	The Cabinet Office has	securing adequate budget	. Progress depends on		Statted	Chilod		Comments
					£		January 2004						Timescale	Revised

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COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

AGENDA ITEM:

DATE OF

8th September 2003

CATEGORY:

MEETING:

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DELEGATED

REPORT FROM:

DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

OPEN

MEMBERS'

Peter Woolrich

DOC: Community

CONTACT POINT:

Ext 5726

Strategy.doc

SUBJECT:

SOUTH DERBYSHIRE COMMUNITY

REF:

STRATEGY

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WARD(S)
AFFECTED:

ALL

TERMS OF

REFERENCE: G

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To inform the Committee of progress in the development of the South Derbyshire Community Strategy.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 That Members note progress.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 As members will know, the Local Government Act 2000 gives the Council new powers to promote or improve the economic, social or environmental well being of the district. This is linked to the duty to prepare a Community Strategy with a Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) and to fully involve local people in the process.
- 3.2 At the last meeting, it was reported that the first Partnership Forum Event had been held at the Bretby Conference Centre where a draft constitution was agreed and nominations were made to a Shadow Board to oversee the work of a Southern Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (SDLSP)
- 3.3 The first Shadow Board meetings took place in July and August. Consultations are now being undertaken on the draft constitution of the SDSLP with a view to formally establishing the Partnership at the proposed Forum's Annual General Meeting. This is to be held at the Bretby Conference Centre on 24th October.
- 3.4 The Shadow Board has agreed to set up a small working group of Board Members and officers of the Partner organisations to prepare a project brief for the preparation of the Community Strategy and to identify its main themes. The project Brief will set out the timetable and milestones for the production of the Community Strategy.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

5.0 Background Papers

Reports to Community Scrutiny Committee
Minutes of the Southern Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership Shadow Board

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

COMMITTEE

DATE OF

MEETING:

8th September 2003

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT FROM:

ALL

MANAGER

Carl Jacobs

MEMBERS' 595717 **CONTACT POINT:**

SUBJECT:

ABANDONED VEHICLE REPORT

REF:

OPEN

DOC:

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PARAGRAPH NO:N/A

doned vehicles4

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

AGENDA ITEM:

CATEGORY:

DELEGATED

WARD(S) AFFECTED:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Committee endorses the work undertaken on Abandoned Vehicles by the Environmental Health Licensing Section.

2.0 Purpose of Report

To describe the actions of the Environmental Health Section, legislative provisions, costs and future Government proposals for dealing with abandoned vehicles.

3.0 Detail

The previous report (Annex 1) detailed improvements made by the section in regard to administrative activities and speed of removal. It also indicated future improvements in the service, Government proposals and the rise in the numbers of vehicles.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE SINCE LAST REPORT

- 3.2 The installation of direct access to DVLA has now been completed which allows us to interrogate the DVLA licensing system via the internet to provide almost immediate notification of keeper details. The system works more frequently than it doesn't.
- 3.2 We have recently been able to trace the keeper of an abandoned vehicle and charged them with the cost of removal. This is the first occasion that this has ever been possible but it is hoped that in the near future with a change in the law this may become a more regular occurrence (see later in the report). Previously the owner always claimed that the vehicle had been sold on.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

3.3 The Environmental Health Section has recently installed a new computer software system called "Flare." This system will deal all Environmental Health requests for Service and programmed inspections. In regards to abandoned vehicles, requests for service will be placed on the system which can then be better monitored by the myself. It will also enable letters, questionnaires to be produced and accurate records of those kept. Statistics will also be able to be produced immediately on request.

GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

- 3.4 The Government believes that stringent measures are needed to ensure that all vehicles can be associated with a registered keeper who has clear responsibility for ensuring that the vehicle is operated legally and disposed of correctly. The key element in such an approach would be the continued fiscal responsibility of the former keeper. The keeper will maintain that responsibility unless they can demonstrate that they have notified DVLA of the transfer or destruction of the vehicle. Under the current system it has been relatively easy for the keeper to disown responsibility for the vehicle, claiming he no longer has the vehicle in his possession.
- 3.5 I have recently spoken to Mark Scawick of the Department of Transport who has informed me that legislation is to change on the 1st January 2004 and will result in the keeper maintaining ownership of the vehicle unless they have informed the DVLA of the change of ownership or destruction. He additionally informed me that they intend to operate a positive enforcement policy by issuing fixed penalties by post where tax has not been paid on a vehicle or no SORN declaration has been forwarded to the DVLA.

RISE IN NUMBERS OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

- 3.6 Below is a break down of vehicles per month for period 2001/2002, 2002/2003 and 2003 to date. I have put a six month total for each year and a year total (ANNEX 2)
- 4.0 Financial Implications
- 4.1 none by these proposals

5.0 Background Papers

ANNEX 1 – Community Scrutiny – Abandoned Vehicle Report 24/3/03
ANNEX 2 – Break down of Abandoned Vehicles 2001/2002 2002/2003
and 2003 to Date

COMMUNITY SCRUTINY

AGENDA ITEM:

COMMITTEE

DATE OF

MEETING:

24th March 2003

CATEGORY: DELEGATED

REPORT FROM:

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

MANAGER

OPEN

DOC:

PARAGRAPH NO:N/A

MEMBERS'

Carl Jacobs

CONTACT POINT:

595717

SUBJECT:

ARANDONED VEHICLE REPORT

REF:

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doned vehicles3

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That the Committee endorses the work undertaken on Abandoned Vehicles by the Environmental Health Licensing Section

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To describe the legislative provisions that have been brought in to improve the situation of abandoned vehicles and describe the improvements that have been put in place since the last report.

3.0 Detail

IMPROVEMENTS MADE BY SDDC FOLLOWING COUNTY AGREEMENT

- 3.1 A working group of all Derbyshire Local Authorities, Police and Fire Service have held meetings to agree procedures of dealing with Abandoned Vehicles throughout Derbyshire. The meetings agreed that the following matters should be implemented:-
 - 1. A written procedure on dealing with Abandoned Vehicles has been produced as is now in use within SDDC.
 - 2. All burnt out vehicles which have no number plates or methods of identification are removed immediately and destroyed.
 - 3. Vehicles that are burnt out or have no value but have identification numbers are served with the New 24Hr notice and then removed.
 - 4. Vehicles that have identification numbers and some residual value are served with a 7-day notice, however a check is necessary through the DVLC to determine any ownership details. This slows the whole process down and the Government proposals to supply information via the Internet are slow in coming.

A County agreement has agreed that vehicles on private land can now be dealt
with following a written request by the landowner. Previously the vehicles on
private land were not dealt with except on a very adhoc basis.

IMPROVEMENTS MADE SPECIFICALLY AT SDDC

- 3.2 A committee report was taken to the Environmental Services Committee on the 11th July 2002 (Annex 1) removing the delegation of Abandoned Vehicles from the Chief Executive and placing it with the Environmental Health Manager. The same report also authorised Environmental Health Officers, Technicians and Licensing Enforcement Officers the ability to serve notices directly on to abandoned vehicles without the need for a senior officer's signature or facsimile stamp.
- 3.3 Coupled with this carbonated notices have been produced allowing Officers to carry them in their vehicles. This allows them to initially visit the site, assess state of vehicle and serve the appropriate notice on one visit. The previous method often required 2 visits. First visit to assess state of vehicle and the second to serve a statutory notice following obtaining an appropriate signature.
- 3.4 An information leaflet has been produced which will be forwarded to all complainants informing them how the council will deal with abandoned vehicles this will be introduced in April 2003.
- 3.5 A customer questionnaire will be introduced in April 2003, which will be forwarded to all complainants at the conclusion of their enquiry. This will facilitate customer feed back and potentially guide us on ways of improving the service.
- 3.6 A direct complainant Internet access will be made available in April 2003. This will allow members of the public to request service of the Council in regard to Abandoned Vehicles directly through the Internet, Information is also available via the Internet as to how the Council deals with Abandoned Vehicles.

FUTURE IMPROVEMENTS

3.7 We are now close to the installation of direct Internet access with the DVLA so that keeper information can be obtained almost immediately. Recent discussions are indicating that this should be a reality within the next calendar month - but this does rely on the DVLA.

SHORT TERM GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS FROM PREVIOUS REPORT

3.8 The Government believes that Local Authorities are best placed to deal with local concerns and respond to local circumstances in dealing with abandoned vehicles. In the short term the Government intends to enhance the powers of the Local Authorities to remove abandoned vehicles more quickly. It proposes to do this by: -

Reducing the notice period on highways and private land after which it is possible for L.A's to remove vehicles.

 In the case where the vehicle has no value i.e. it is such a condition that it should be destroyed the notice period be reduced from 7 days to 24 Hrs.
 (Completed by the Government and fully operational within SDDC)

- For vehicles abandoned on the highway but with some value it is proposed to reduce the notice period from 21 days to between 7 and 14 days.
 (Completed by the Government and fully operational within SDDC)
- 3) The government further proposes to bring in line the removal of vehicles from private land to the same time periods as 1 and 2 immediately above. (No Government action on this yet but local agreement in force)
- 3.9 It is also proposing to empower local Authorities to act as contractors to remove vehicles which are unlicensed, by, clamping them and impounding them. The time periods for destruction of these vehicles will also be reduced and charges for the release of vehicles from clamping or impounding will be levied.

 (No Government action on this yet)

3.10 The government will make it easier and faster for local authorities to access DVLA records for vehicle ownership prior to service of notices.
(Government Action on this hopefully completed within the month)

LONGER TERM GOVERNMENT PROPOSALS

3.11 The Government believes that stringent measures are needed to ensure that all vehicles can be associated with a registered keeper who has clear responsibility for ensuring that the vehicle is operated legally and disposed of correctly. The key element in such an approach would be the continued fiscal responsibility of the former keeper. The keeper will maintain that responsibility unless they can demonstrate that they have notified DVLA of the transfer or destruction of the Vehicle. Under the current system it has been relatively easy for the keeper to disown responsibility for the vehicle, claiming he no longer has the vehicle in his possession.

(Discussed this matter with Department of Transport - no action likely for 12 - 18 months)

3.12 The United Kingdom should move to a system of continuous registration.

(No Government Action on this yet)

4.0 RISE IN NUMBERS OF ABANDONED VEHICLES

- 4.1 The rise in abandoned seems to have levelled out showing only a slight increase this year. I have attached a break down of the number of vehicles for the period 2001/2002 and 2002/2003 (ANNEX 2).
- 4.2 The rise in the number of abandoned vehicles could be reduced dramatically if the Government introduced one of their long-term objectives namely the system of continuos registration. This means that unless the seller has notified the DVLA of the formal transfer then the fiscal responsibility for the vehicle would remain with the seller.
- 4.3 An additional factor would be if the cost of scrap metal rose thus making it a financial benefit to sell the scrap vehicle rather than abandoning it.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no additionally costs as a consequence of this report

6.0 Background Papers

- 6.1 ANNEX 1 Environmental Services Committee Report 11th July 2002 –Scheme of Delegation of Officers for Abandoned Vehicles.
- 6.2 ANNEX 2 Abandoned Vehicles 2001/2002 and 2002/2003

ANNEX 2

Break down of Abandoned Vehicles In South Derbyshire District Council Periods 2001/2002, 2002/2003, and 2003 to Date

Month	Number of Vehicles 2001/2002	Number of Vehicles 2002/2003	Number of Vehicles 2003 to date
April	30	42	29
May	31	29	31
June	38	39	33
July	25	57	33
August	44	49	25*
Sub total 6	168	216	151
months			
September	42	41	
October	32	42	
November	33	31	
December	24	25	
January	40	36	
February	29	29	
March	41	42	
Yearly Total	409	462	

^{*} Abandoned vehicles as at 28th August 2003