
REPORT TO:	ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	29 th January 2004	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO:
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	Carl Jacobs and Steve Wilson 595717 595894	DOC:
SUBJECT:	VEHICLE DISPOSALSCHEME	REF: c:\myfiles\com\ES\ abandveh
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE: ES13

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That committee approves the Vehicle Disposal Scheme.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The report outlines the proposal to introduce a pilot scheme for the collection and disposal of unwanted vehicles within South Derbyshire.

3.0 Detail

3.1 The scheme aims to tackle the increasing anti-social problem of unwanted abandoned vehicles throughout the district. Historically, in the region of 500 abandoned vehicles are reported to the Police, Local Authority and Fire Service throughout the year in the district.

3.2 Research has shown that 90% of these vehicles are simply unwanted rather than stolen. Of the total figure abandoned in region of 10 - 15% are ultimately subjected to arson.

3.3 The average cost of dealing with a burnt out abandoned vehicle for all enforcement agencies is estimated to be in the region of £2000. The scheme aims to deal with these vehicles before they become abandoned and burnt out thus saving an estimated £80,000 per annum of public money. The cost of the scheme, which will be offered to residents free of charge (subject to provisions) should be in the region of £80 per vehicle.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The scheme has a fund of £4000 which has been provided jointly by the District Council and South Derbyshire Crime and Disorder Partnership. A further application has been made to the Home Office Arson Reduction Fund for a further £4000. The use of this budget will be monitored and subject to the effectiveness of the scheme applications will be made to replenish the fund.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 None

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Police, Fire Service and local Authority regularly receive complaints surrounding the unsightly, anti-social and often dangerous aspect of abandoned vehicles.

6.2 Emergency services responding to such incidents commit valuable and limited resources to these incidents, creating additional risks to the public, due to a reduced ability to respond.

6.3 Abandoned / burnt out cars encourage other acts of anti-social behaviour such as fly tipping and criminal damage. They also act as a magnet for children who are often unaware of the associated dangers with such vehicles.

6.4 This scheme will help to reduce the above problems by addressing the issues at source. A reduction in the incidents of abandoned vehicles will in turn lead to a reduction in social degradation and associated anti-social behaviour. It will improve the quality of life for local residents who are often routinely affected in locations which see repeated occurrences of this nature.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The scheme offers a cost-effective remedy to the problems of abandoned and burnt out vehicles, with little or no additional cost to the district.

7.2 The scheme will increase the public's awareness of action towards the increasing levels of anti-social behaviour in the district, whilst improving community safety confidence coupled with a reduced fear of crime.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 Vehicle Disposal Scheme Procedure Policy

8.2 Arson Control Forum Funding bid – supporting narrative.