

Report

Body:	Scrutiny Committee
Date:	6 February 2006
Subject:	Monitoring Report – Abandoned Vehicles
Report Of:	Assistant Director – Amenities & Contract Management
Ward(s)	All
Purpose	To inform Scrutiny Committee on progress with the action points arising from the outcome of a review into Abandoned Vehicles.
Decision Type:	Not applicable
Recommendation:	That Scrutiny Committee notes progress with implementing recommendations from the Review and agrees that no further monitoring report is required.
Contact:	Mark Probyn, Assistant Director – Amenities & Contract Management, Telephone 01323 415240 or internally on extension 5240. E-mail address: mark.probyn@eastbourne.gov.uk

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 On the 6 December 2004 Scrutiny Committee received the report of Councillor Barry Taylor and Councillor Mrs Margaret Bannister, as representatives of the Review Group, on the Council's procedures in dealing with Abandoned Vehicles.
- 1.2 Arising from this Scrutiny Committee endorsed the following recommendations. That the Council should:
- (a) engage with partners in a publicity campaign to encourage the owners of old and potential abandoned vehicles to dispose of them direct to a vehicle breaker;
 - (b) arrange for a vehicle amnesty through which residents may have vehicles collected and disposed of at nil cost;
 - (c) promote an awareness of Operation Crackdown with residents and Community Groups within the Borough through Council's Cleansing and Highways Forum;

- (d) monitor the position on Manufacturers End of Vehicle Life Directive for potential increase in abandoned vehicles;
- (e) monitor activity with regard to abandoned vehicles and to report any significant increase in activity to Cabinet with an appropriate recommendation;
- (f) encourage joint agency working initiatives that could take place further to the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership remit; and
- (g) lobby the Government to the effect that the Council should receive a contribution from Government relating to its contribution to the unofficial collection of taxes associated with the identification of vehicles which do not display a valid road fund licence.

2.0 Progress with the recommendations

- 2.1 On (a) and (b) above the Council has participated jointly with others including the Police, Driver Vehicle Licensing Authority and Trading Standards in joint initiatives that sought to raise public awareness of abandoned vehicles and the procedures in dealing with them. One such initiative known as *Operation Balmoral* took place in February 2005 during which time 78 vehicles were removed from the Highway as abandoned , 281 vehicles had DVLA warning notices affixed to them for not showing a valid tax disc, 2 cars were recovered as being reported stolen and 6 cars were identified as displaying fraudulent tax discs.

The Council continues with joint initiatives with external agencies, the last having been carried out in December 2005, when 57 vehicles were removed off road for having no vehicle tax.
- 2.2 On (c) the Council has promoted an awareness of Operation Crackdown with residents and Community Groups through the Council's Cleansing and Highways Forum;
- 2.3 On (d) officers continue to monitor the position on the Manufacturers End of Vehicle Life Directive which it is now understood is going to be implemented by the Government in 2007.
- 2.4 On (e) officers continue to monitor the numbers of abandoned vehicles reported, for which there has been no significant increase since December 2004. For the calendar year 2005, 968 abandoned vehicle reports were received of which 277 vehicles were confirmed to be abandoned and subsequently removed.
- 2.5 On (f) joint agency working initiatives have taken place further to the Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership remit; and more recently joint agency working has been promoted through the Joint Agency Working Group (JAG).

2.6 On (h) to lobby the Government to the effect that the Council should receive a contribution from Government relating to its contribution to the unofficial collection of taxes, the Assistant Director – Amenities & Contract Management has written to the Secretary of State for the Environment and Secretary of State for Transport proposing this and is awaiting their response.

3.0 Consultation

3.1 No consultation has taken place in preparing this monitoring report

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note progress with implementing recommendations from the Review and if minded, to agree that no further monitoring report is required in relation to this review.

Mark Probyn
Assistant Director – Amenities & Contract Management

Background Papers:

The Background Papers used in compiling this report were as follows:
Scrutiny Committee Report – 6 December 2004 – Abandoned Vehicles

To inspect or obtain copies of background papers please refer to the contact officer listed above.