

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee **DATE:** 3 March 2015

CONTACT OFFICER: Diane Viechweg, Enforcement Team Leader
(For all enquiries) (01753) 474302

WARD(S): All

PART I FOR INFORMATION

ABANDONED VEHICLES PROCEDURE

1 Purpose of Report

To outline the procedures to deal with abandoned and untaxed vehicles and identify the agencies responsible.

2 Recommendation(s)/Proposed Action

That Members consider details of the report and decide what, if any, further action should be taken.

3. Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities –

Slough Borough Council considers it to be a priority to remove vehicles which are abandoned and their appearance works against the creation of a safe, environmentally friendly and sustainable neighbourhood.

Priorities:

- *Economy and Skills*
- *Health and Wellbeing*
- *Regeneration and Environment*
- *Housing*
- *Safer Communities*

4 Other Implications

There are no financial implications of proposed action.

(a) Risk Management

| Risk | Mitigating action | Opportunities |
|-------------------|---|----------------------|
| Legal | Ensuring that vehicles are removed lawfully | |
| Property | None | |
| Human Rights | None | |
| Health and Safety | None | |
| Employment Issues | None | |
| Equalities Issues | None | |

| | | |
|------------------------|------|--|
| Community Support | None | |
| Communications | None | |
| Community Safety | None | |
| Financial | None | |
| Timetable for delivery | None | |
| Project Capacity | None | |
| Other | None | |

There has been no need identified for the completion of an EIA.

5 **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Following discussion at its meeting on 5 February 2015, Members requested that an information report be presented to Committee outlining the Council's policy and procedure to deal with abandoned and untaxed vehicles.
- 5.2 The number of vehicles being abandoned in Slough has fluctuated over recent years but generally declined over the last decade. This is mainly due to the price of scrap metal being sufficiently high enough so that vehicles are more likely to be scrapped by owners as they will receive cash for scrapping their vehicle whereas previously, they may have been charged to have a vehicle removed. Local firms advertising for scrap cars has encouraged owners to scrap their vehicles rather than abandoning them on the scale that was seen approximately 11 years ago.
- 5.3 The table below highlights the number of abandoned vehicles reported to the Council since 2011.

| Year | 2011/12 | 2012/13 | 2013/14 |
|------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| No. of vehicles | 303 | 307 | 390 |

- 5.3 Many vehicles that are reported to the Council are not actually abandoned and the officer must run through a checklist to ensure that the vehicle has indeed been abandoned before removal. The Council does not have the authority to remove vehicles that are not abandoned. Some of these vehicles are untaxed rather than abandoned. Some are declared SORN and others will have a local registered keeper who has an active interest in the vehicle.
- 5.4 The procedure to deal with abandoned and untaxed vehicles is outlined in the attached Appendix A.

6 **Conclusion**

This report is intended to provide the Committee with an overview of SBC's procedure to deal with abandoned and untaxed vehicles.

7 **Background Papers**

None.