

**REPORT TO:** PLANNING AND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE, 11 JUNE 2007

**REPORT ON:** DECRIMINALISATION OF PARKING ENFORCEMENT - PERSISTENT EVADERS OF PENALTY CHARGE NOTICES (PCN's)

**REPORT BY:** DIRECTOR OF PLANNING & TRANSPORTATION

**REPORT NO:** 259-2007

## **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek the Committees agreement to approve a Council Policy in connection with Persistent Evaders of Penalty Charge Notices under Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement legislation.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approves the policy of uplifting persistent evader vehicles in Dundee.

## **3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 It will be necessary to ensure that an appropriate vehicle and infrastructure are in place to ensure the successful delivery of this policy.
- 3.2 Whilst every effort will be made to recover costs from the persistent evaders it is anticipated that this policy will not be self financing and will require support from other funding sources.
- 3.3 Discussions with other departments and Tayside Police will be held to investigate the possibility of using the specialist uplift vehicle for other purposes which should reduce the funding burden.
- 3.4 It is difficult to quantify the cost of this policy at this stage due to the level of usage and numbers of vehicle uplifts. However, after discussions with another city authority with experience in this field, the net cost of this policy is estimated to be £20,000. This cost can be met from the Planning & Transportation Budget for 2007/08.

## **4 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 There are no Sustainability, Strategic Environment Assessment or Anti-Poverty implications associated with this report.

## **5 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no equal opportunity implications associated with this report.

## **6 BACKGROUND**

- 6.1 Since the introduction of Decriminalisation of Parking Enforcement in Dundee in April 2004, there have accrued a considerable number of outstanding debts which Messrs Huttons, a commercial company, has been employed to recover. However there are still a large number of persistent evaders who continue to offend whilst the debt process is ongoing.

- 6.2 It is proposed that a policy be introduced such that persistent evaders, defined as a vehicle having three or more outstanding PCNs will have their vehicle impounded by Dundee City Council until such time as the outstanding debt (including uplift, storage, administrative costs etc) is paid. If the outstanding debt is not paid by a pre-determined period the vehicle will be auctioned to recover the debt.
- 6.3 Consideration has been given to clamping persistent evader vehicles but after consulting with other city authorities who have operated such a scheme, this would not be recommended in Dundee because of the controversial nature of this enforcement tool, its unpopularity, damage claims, adverse publicity and impact on the Council's reputation.

## **7 CONSULTATIONS**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

## **8 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

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AL/EB

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