

(ii) Mr R Bremner

To the Chair of the Communities & Place Committee

Three years ago I brought a motion to Council committing Council to implementing an effective policy in respect of abandoned and, in particular, nuisance vehicles. Since then, progress has been very slow. This policy desperately needs to be implemented. I know that reference was made to the Northern Joint Collaboration Board for a national response and covid undoubtedly will have impacted. What position is Council at in reviewing and implementing an effective policy to deal with abandoned and nuisance vehicles?

Prior to the Covid19 Pandemic work had been done to improve arrangements in response to abandoned and nuisance vehicles. This included:

- *Better use of DVLA system to allow ownership checks for nuisance vehicles to be undertaken.*
- *Training of the staff involved on abandoned vehicles & nuisance legislation (January 2020)*
- *Further advice and signposting available for the public on the Council's website*

Officers from Environmental Health, Housing Services and the parking enforcement team have continued to investigate and respond to concerns on the issue. For example, environmental health team have investigated 256 cases so far in 2021. Detailed figures per area are provide below for information.

Work was done in 2019 on a draft policy but unfortunately this has been delayed both due to Covid19 response and other workload pressures. Through the return to normal working, officers will:

- *Continue routine investigations into reports of abandoned and nuisance vehicles.*
- *revisit the previous work to finalise the proposals for the new policy; and*
- *engage with partners such as DVLA and Police Scotland with a view to reinstating the joint operations to target particular problematic areas. Successful joint operations have previously been arranged in Inverness, Muir of Ord and Caithness areas.*

Environmental Health are also committed to bringing annual reports to local committees. This will allow local scrutiny of the work of the team; their legal duties and area issues being responded to locally including abandoned and nuisance vehicle issues. The first report was provided to the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee and this approach will be rolled out to other local committees over the next year.

Background data

Numbers dropped in 2020 but in 2021 are generally returning to numbers similar to previous years (these are reports to environmental health of abandoned/nuisance vehicles):

Operational area	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 to 30/8/21
Badenoch & Strathspey EH	7	14	21	6	0
Caithness EH	83	93	92	46	25

Inverness EH	291	250	214	143	145
Lochaber EH	41	29	31	36	15
Nairn EH	11	1	4	6	0
Ross & Cromarty EH	117	106	100	73	63
Sutherland EH	12	10	12	5	2
Skye & Lochalsh EH	14	11	5	13	6
	576	514	479	328	256