

To: Executive Board
7 February 2005

RECOMMENDATIONS OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

Finance Scrutiny Committee – 22nd December 2004

Draft Asset Management Plan

Following consideration of the draft Plan, the Committee: -

- (1) RECOMMENDED Executive Board that part of the receipts from the sale of assets should be made available to the relevant Area Committee for it to spend in its area;
- (2) ASKED that Executive Board be informed of the Committee's concerns regarding the increase in the level of CO2 emissions from Council Council premises.

According to figures given in the report, the level of emissions increased from 0.108 tonnes per sq. m. in 2003 to 0.143 tonnes pre sq. m. in 2004.

Asset Management in Local Government

Following consideration of revised draft guidelines issued by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors the Committee RECOMMENDED Executive Board to submit the following comments: -

- (1) that the proposals contained in the final version of the guidelines concerning depreciation and charging mechanisms should reflect those contained in Accounting Standards guidance;
- (2) to express concern that the proposals contained in the document could have major implications for Council Tax levels.

Community Scrutiny Committee – 25 January 2005

Item 8 DVLA Clear Car Campaign

The Scrutiny Officer (Andrew Davies) submitted a report (previously circulated and now appended).

Councillor Sargent asked if Oxfordshire County Council had been encouraged to get Control Plus involved with the campaign. Andrew Davies agreed to investigate.

Councillor Pressel said that she was disappointed that City Council car parks did not sign up to the scheme in the past.

In response to questions about the activities of parking attendants, Mr Davies stressed that they did this work as part of their normal days work, which included reporting tax disc breaches.

Committee resolved :

- (1) That Councillor Sargent would write to Oxfordshire County Council urging them to get involved in the scheme.
- (2) To ask the Executive Board to approve that the Transport and Parking Business Unit sign up to the Clear Car Campaign, and that this is timed to coincide with the publicity drive in February 2005.

**Community Scrutiny
Committee**

25th January 2005

**Scrutiny Committee
Briefing Note:**

DVLA Clear Car Campaign

Summary:

The Section 17 Review Group has recently met with Graham Smith, the Transport and Parking Business Manager to discuss crime and disorder reduction. One of the outcomes of the meeting is that the group recommend that the Transport and Parking Business Unit sign up to the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) Clear Car Campaign. This would contribute to the Council's vision aim of making Oxford a safer city.

Details of the campaign are set out in the note below. The Section 17 Review Group ask that the Community Scrutiny Committee support this recommendation and that it is referred to the Executive Board.

**Report Author and
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Section 17 Review Group met with Graham Smith, the Transport and Parking Business Unit Manager on 15th December 2004 to discuss crime and disorder reduction. As a result of that meeting, a number of recommendations were put together, one of which was that the Business Unit should sign up to the DVLA Clear Car Campaign.

1.2 The other recommendations will be presented to the Committee at a future meeting. However, the Group felt it was important that this recommendation be passed to the Committee at the earliest opportunity for consideration, as the Oxford Safer Communities Partnership plans to launch a publicity campaign to raise awareness of the Clear Car Campaign in February 2005. It is seen as a good time to raise awareness of this issue and recommend that the Transport and Parking Business Unit is involved in the scheme.

2.0 How does the Clear Car Campaign Work?

2.1 In September 1998, the Vehicle Crime Reduction Action Team (VCRAT) was established by the Home Office to develop and implement a strategy to meet the Government's vehicle crime reduction objectives. Amongst the initiatives that have been introduced is the Clear Car Campaign.

- 2.2 The Clear Car Campaign encourages people not to leave valuable items on display in their cars e.g. laptops, mobile phones, shopping bags etc, which may attract thieves. The details of a vehicle with items on display, such as the number plate, where the vehicle was parked and the date and time that it was seen are noted down and submitted to the DVLA. The DVLA write to the owner of the vehicle explaining what has been seen and encouraging them not to keep expensive items on display in their car.
- 2.3 In order for the scheme to be a success, the co-operation of car park attendants is essential. At present Oxford University, Thames Valley Police, Oxford City Council Street Wardens and the John Radcliffe Hospital Trust all take part in the scheme. The Council's Community Safety Support Officer is prepared to administer the scheme on behalf the Transport and Parking Business Unit, ensuring that weekly returns are sent to the DVLA, providing that information is returned to her from the car park teams.

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 The Community Scrutiny Committee is recommended to ask the Executive Board to approve that the Transport and Parking Business Unit sign up to the Clear Car Campaign, and that this is timed to coincide with the publicity drive in February 2005.