

**To: ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD**

**On: 15 MARCH 2017**

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**Report by: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

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**Heading: VEHICLE IDLING AND VEHICLE EMISSIONS CAMPAIGN 2016/17**

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**1. Summary**

- 1.1 To assist with improving air quality within Air Quality Management Areas, Renfrewshire Council runs educational campaigns to highlight the effect that vehicle idling has on air quality and works with Police Scotland to randomly stop motorists to check the vehicle emissions.
- 1.2 These tests have historically been conducted within Paisley Town Centre (Wallneuk Road). Due to the declaration of 2 further Air Quality Management Areas within Renfrew Town Centre and Johnstone Town Centre in August 2016, the intention is to conduct additional vehicle emission testing around these town centres.
- 1.3 The vehicle emissions campaign will be undertaken over four days in March 2017 with a year long vehicle idling campaign at schools starting at the same time.
- 1.4 The service, through Scottish Government funding, has provided access, for local companies, to sign up to the Ecostars (Efficient and Cleaner Operations) fleet recognition scheme, fuel management and operational efficiency support programme. The programme is aimed at operators of goods vehicles, vans, buses, taxis and coaches. It has the core objective of encouraging commercial fleet operators based (or with significant operations) within Renfrewshire to adopt operational and environmental best practice. The Council's own fleet has participated in the scheme and was awarded a 4 star rating (out of a maximum of 5 stars). This is an excellent rating to achieve given the size and diversity of the Council's fleet.
- 1.5 The Ecostars fleet management programme will form part of the Renfrewshire Council Air Quality Action plan which is currently being devised and will contribute to

improvements with regards to the air quality approach.

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## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended that the Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Notes the Council's vehicle idling and emissions campaign, commencing during March 2017.
  - 2.2 Notes that the vehicle emissions testing will be undertaken in conjunction with partners including Police Scotland and that during inspections officers will be assessing compliance with other legislation including smoking in motor vehicles with children, vehicle condition etc.
  - 2.3 Authorises the Director of Community Resources to act as a signatory for certificates related to the ECO Stars fleet recognition scheme.
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## **3. Background**

- 3.1 Renfrewshire Council received £15,000 from the Scottish Government as part of the air quality action grant to participate in a vehicle idling and emissions initiative for the financial year 2016/17.
- 3.2 The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness amongst the public of the impact on air quality of vehicle idling and to take enforcement action where vehicles fail emissions testing.

### **Vehicle Emissions**

- 3.3 The campaign will be coordinated by the Renfrewshire Wardens Service and will involve joint working with partners from Police Scotland and the Renfrewshire Licensing Team in respect of licensed taxis. Also participating will be taxi inspectors from neighbouring local authorities, Glasgow City Council & East Renfrewshire Council.
- 3.4 Vehicles will be stopped by Police Scotland and tested by Renfrewshire Council. Those which fail the emissions test will be issued with a Fixed Penalty Notice. The fine for failing an emissions test is £60. However, the notice will be waived if the driver presents an MOT test certificate within 14 days indicating that the fault has been repaired.
- 3.5 The exact areas used for the emissions testing have still to be identified; however they must be within half a mile of an Air Quality Management Area. Investigations are currently underway to identify locations that are suitable to allow vehicles to be stopped and testing undertaken in a safe manner.

3.6 With regards to communication before, during and after the campaign:

- A public notice will be placed in a local newspaper giving 28 days' notice of the intention to carry out testing;
- Information letters and idling leaflets will be sent to all bus companies operating within the Renfrewshire area as well as taxi companies and large transport businesses;
- Leaflets will be handed out by Wardens during the stops;
- A press release will appear in local papers, before the campaign to highlight the aims and afterwards to demonstrate the outcomes of the campaign;
- Information will also be made available on the Renfrewshire Council Website and on Renfo prior to the launch and during the campaign.

3.7 The first phase of vehicle emissions testing took place on 15-16 November 2016. Renfrewshire Wardens, working in partnership with Licensing Officers and Police Scotland, carried out emissions testing on light vehicles entering the Air Quality Management Area in Paisley town centre. 514 vehicles were tested (including 22 taxis and private-hire vehicles) with 5 fails resulting in the issuing of Fixed Penalty Notices to the drivers. There were also 6 warnings issued due to minor defects.

#### **Vehicle Idling**

3.8 It is not an offence to idle a motor vehicle; the offence is for idling a vehicle unnecessarily, however, this is not clearly defined within the legislation and it resides with the officer to make a judgement at the time. Officers within Renfrewshire Council regularly patrol and offer advice where motorists are seen to be unnecessarily idling.

3.9 Using Community Safety statistics and complaints, a selection of schools will be visited and Renfrewshire Wardens will undertake patrols to advise and educate parents that are idling unnecessarily. This will be done in coordination with the school Head Teacher and Children's Services.

3.10 As part of the on-going education campaign, Renfrewshire Council will work with Children's Services to provide every child with a leaflet, to be passed to a guardian regarding vehicle idling and the effect that this can have on the child (Appendix 1). Removable banners will also be erected at the school during the campaign (Appendix 2).

3.11 Schools will also be provided with text messages that can be used to highlight the issue regarding idling outside of schools. Standard paragraphs will also be prepared for school newsletters (Appendix 3).

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#### **4. Renfrewshire Council fleet and ECO Stars**

- 4.1 ECO Stars is a fuel management and operational efficiency support programme aimed at operators of goods vehicles, vans, buses, taxis and coaches. The scheme's core objective is to encourage commercial fleet operators based (or with significant operations) within Renfrewshire to adopt operational and environmental best practice. The scheme is designed to give operators recognition for their current practices and then ongoing support and free guidance to continually improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and reduce fleet emissions – all helping to improve local air quality, maximise carbon savings and tackle climate change.
- 4.2 Implementation of the ECO Stars scheme has recently commenced within Renfrewshire and is being delivered and managed by a specialist transport consultant, TRL, on behalf of the Council. The scheme is completely free for operators to join with funding provided via the Scottish Government's Air Quality Action Plan grant.
- 4.3 The Council is the first member of the scheme with an inspection of the Council fleet and operational and environmental best practice undertaken in November 2016. The Council have been awarded a 4 star rating (out of a maximum of 5 stars). This is an excellent rating to achieve, particularly due to the size and diversity of the fleet.
- 4.4 Following the assessment the Council have been commended for a number of positive environmental operational practices including the on-going corporate policy of fleet renewals, implementation of a 'fuel champion', regular meetings with all relevant service managers, willingness to trial new technologies (electric and ultra-low emission vehicles), consideration of whole life costs of vehicles, ongoing skills development for all drivers and the recent installation of the Masternaut telematics support system.
- 4.5 The report outlines a number of additional measures for the Council to build upon the achievements to date which will hopefully enable progression to the top 5 star rating.
- 4.6 The Council has now written to approximately 40 local companies promoting the ECO Stars scheme. A representative from TRL will also be presenting a talk at a future Greener Transport Sub Group meeting to encourage membership from Community Planning Partners. It is hoped that membership will increase over the next few months and should the scheme prove successful and there be sufficient interest from local operators then further funding will be applied for to continue and expand the scheme into 2017/18.
- 4.7 Over time, the ECO Stars scheme could provide a valuable intervention and contribute to the delivery of improved air quality through reduced emissions from HGVs across the entire Council area, as well as providing an opportunity for the Council to discuss transport related air quality issues with the main freight operators in the area.

- 4.8 Once a fleet operator has been successful, they will obtain a certificate advising of the standard/rating achieved.
- 4.9 This report requests authority for the Director of Community Resources to act as the authorised signatory for these certificates within Renfrewshire.
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### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – all costs are currently met from the Scottish Government Air Quality grant. Staff costs are met from existing budgets.
  2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none
  3. **Community Planning**  
  
**Community Care, Health & Well-being** – by incorporating this campaign as part of the Renfrewshire Council Air Quality Action Plan, we aim to improve air quality and provide a clean and safe environment for all of Renfrewshire's residents, workers and visitors.  
  
**Greener** - improving air quality will have a beneficial impact on Renfrewshire's natural environment.
  4. **Legal** – none
  5. **Property/Assets** - none
  6. **Information Technology** - none
  7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.
  8. **Health & Safety** – none
  9. **Procurement** – none
  10. **Risk** – none
  11. **Privacy Impact** - none
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## List of Background Papers - None

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**Text 1**

KEEP SCHOOLS SAFE FOR CHILDREN TO ENTER AND LEAVE. CONSIDERATE DRIVERS DON'T PARK ON YELLOWLINES, ZIG-ZAGS OR PAVEMENTS.

**Text 2**

PROTECT SCHOOL CHILDREN FROM HARMFUL VEHICLE EMISSIONS. TURN YOUR ENGINE OFF WHEN WAITING OUTSIDE SCHOOL IN YOUR CAR.

**Road safety Information to be included in school newsletters to parents**

We are focusing on two important issues that affect the health and safety of children at our schools:

**Dangerous parking**

Inconsiderate parking causes congestion around schools and endangers the safety of children walking in, out or around school premises.

If you are dropping or collecting your child at school, please follow these guidelines:

- Do not park on 'Keep Clear' markings or yellow lines
- Do not park on zig-zag markings
- Be considerate and do not stop in the middle of the road
- Do not park on pavements or across dropped kerbs

**Engine idling**

Keeping your engine running while you are waiting near the school creates pollutants and fumes which are potentially harmful to your children's health.

Also, it's against the law and can result in a fixed penalty being issued.

The solution is simple - if you are waiting to collect your children at school, turn your engine off.