

To: Selection and Member Services Committee – 14 March 2012

By: Peter Sass, Head of Democratic Services

Subject: Use of County Cars by Members

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary This report asks the Committee to consider what action it should take in regard to addressing the outstanding County Car Policy.

1. Background

1.1 The Committee considered a report on County Cars at its meeting on 13 July 2011. A copy of this report is attached at **Appendix 1**. The Committee asked for a further report on the recharge costs whenever a county car is diverted for personal business.

1.2 At the next meeting of the Committee on 12 September 2011, the Head of Democratic Services advised that following discussions with the then Acting Corporate Director of Finance and Procurement, a report would be presented to the next meeting of the Committee setting out proposals for the creation of a Renewals Fund. The Deputy Leader also confirmed that formal written advice would be provided to all Members to ensure that all costs relating to any personal use of County Cars would be paid by the Member concerned.

1.3 Production of this report has been delayed in order to await the publication of a report by the External Auditors on a complaint made by a member of the public which is expected to cover this matter. It was considered to be premature to bring forward a scheme in advance of the Council receiving the Auditor's final report. However, that report has now been received by the Council.

1.4. Members are therefore asked to agree that this Committee's consideration of the matter need not be delayed any longer and that officers should be tasked to bring forward a report to the next meeting in order to address the issues.

1.5. The Leader of the Council wrote to the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group on 6 March 2012 as follows:

“Just for clarity, I have instructed Peter Homewood, the Chair of Selection and Member Services, to make sure after this date we have a comprehensive paper on County Cars – usage/entitlement, comparative costs etc. If necessary we will have a special meeting of Selection and Member Services before the end of April (this year).”

2. Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is invited to note the position and comment accordingly.

Peter Sass: Head of Democratic Services

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