

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCabinet26 January 2023Report by Director of Business Operations and PartnershipsSALE OF HS 0 VEHICLE REGISTRATION**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To seek approval to proceed with the sale of the Council's HS 0 vehicle registration.

**RECOMMENDATION**

2. That Cabinet:-
  - (a) approve the sale of the HS 0 vehicle registration;
  - (b) agree that it delegated to the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to agree a suitable reserve figure.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The Council is facing extremely difficult financial circumstances. To address these and to mitigate their impact every avenue is being explored in relation to generating efficiencies, charging for services and other ways of generating income.

**REPORT**

4. Members may be aware that since the time of Eastwood District Council the "council car" has been registered under the registration number HS 0. A number of other authorities are also understood to hold a "0" vehicle registration the most notable being Glasgow (G 0).
5. Personal number plates are common on UK roads. Prices for these can range from a few hundred pounds to, in extreme cases, millions of pounds. The determining factor on the value can vary. Generally the fewer characters on a registration number the higher the value, but there are also cases where registration numbers that can spell a word also attract a high value. Registration numbers with an individual's initials are also popular and again the fewer letters/numbers the higher the value.
6. What is particularly unusual in terms of the Council's number plate is the use of the number zero on its own. Most registration numbers will start from 1 and the fact that the Council's registration number contains zero on its own makes it extremely rare.
6. The sale of registration numbers tends to take place through dealers. Tentative enquiries have been made and suggestions are that a six figure sum could be realised from the sale of HS 0.

7. For the sale of such a prestigious registration it is proposed that this would be done at auction through a dealer. The dealer would publicise the sale which it is anticipated would generate sufficient interest that would further drive up the sum that could be realised. However, to protect the Council's interests an appropriate reserve would be set. The level of reserve would be set in consultation with the dealer.

#### **IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL**

8. There are no staffing, property, legal, IT, Subsidy Control, equalities, sustainability or climate change implications associated with the proposal. In relation to the financial implications it should be noted that any sum generated would be considered as a capital receipt and not as revenue funding.

#### **CONCLUSION**

9. In light of the Council's difficult financial situation all opportunities to generate income need to be considered. The sale of the Council registration HS 0 presents the opportunity to generate a sizeable sum. In current circumstances it would be imprudent not to consider the sale of something which serves no real purpose and which, arguably, would be viewed by many as an unnecessary extravagance.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

10. That Cabinet:-
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  - (b) agree that it be delegated to the Director of Business Operations and Partnerships to agree a suitable reserve figure.

Report Author  
Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager, 0141 577 3023  
[eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:eamonn.daly@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk)  
Background papers - None