

Abandoned Vehicles Policy

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Version	3
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1.0 Scope and Aims of the Policy

- 1.1 This policy applies to all land managed by Hexagon Housing Association.
- 1.2 It applies to any vehicle that is deemed to be abandoned, off-road or unused. A vehicle will not be considered to be abandoned if it is:
- taxed;
 - legally parked and is on a road with no parking restrictions;
 - in good condition; and
 - is not causing an obstruction.
- 1.3 Vehicles can only be parked in designated parking areas. If vehicles are parked illegally, block the road or prevent an emergency vehicle from passing and cause inconvenience and dissatisfaction to residents, Hexagon will remove them.
- 1.4 The policy will be in line with statutory guidelines and existing tenancy/ lease agreements

2.0 Equality and Diversity

- 2.1 An equality impact assessment 'initial screening' has been carried out which determined there to be no negative impact specific to those with protected characteristics

3.0 Consultation

- 3.1 This policy has not been consulted upon by Hexagon residents

4.0 Policy Statement

- 4.1 Many homes are in areas where demand for parking spaces is now greater than the supply. Hexagon's approach is to encourage responsible parking so that as many people as possible can benefit from the spaces.
- 4.2 Hexagon will work with residents and external agencies to reduce irresponsible parking, parking related disputes, and abandoned vehicles and resolve access problems for emergency and service vehicles. Hexagon will not intervene in parking disputes unless behaviour breaks tenancy or lease conditions and is serious.
- 4.3 Tenancy and lease agreements have specific clauses related to parking which residents must adhere to. All vehicles on Hexagon land must be taxed, insured and have an MOT. Any vehicles parked on Hexagon land that do not meet

these requirements (including SORN registered vehicles) are deemed to be a nuisance. This includes caravans, boats, trailers and vehicles that are completely covered.

- 4.4 Abandoned and unused vehicles can be dangerous, unsightly, encourage antisocial behaviour and they take up space that would otherwise be used by residents.
- 4.5 Hexagon may appoint a reputable company to operate a parking scheme, or parking maintenance, in our neighbourhoods to ensure the effective management/control of parking spaces, facilities, gates or barriers.
- 4.6 Hexagon will consult before introducing any parking service that will involve additional charges for residents. However, there may be times where it is necessary to introduce a service on residents where there is not a majority in favour. This would be if parking causes a safety issue, facilities are regularly abused or or we receive a high volume of complaints.
- 4.7 We will work with local Councils and the Drivers and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) to identify owners of suspected abandoned vehicles and arrange for the vehicle to be removed, stored and disposed of if the owner does not respond after giving the required notice. Where the owner is identified we may re-charge the costs for the removal, storage and disposal of the vehicle.
- 4.8 Our priority will be vehicles reported as a nuisance or identified as a hazard. Any vehicles posing a health and safety risk (including blocking emergency access) will be removed at short notice.
- 4.9 The local authority will be informed when an abandoned vehicle is identified on a public highway.
- 4.10 We will pursue the removal of vehicles that are untaxed, unused or not roadworthy left on our land, particularly when that land is used by multiple residents.
- 4.11 Vehicles parked in driveways must not be unsightly, dangerous or cause nuisance; we reserve the right to seek the removal of vehicles that do not conform.
- 4.12 Proper notice, appropriate to the vehicle type and situation, will be served prior to removal of a vehicle. Clear signage will be used and Hexagon will comply with Tort law (including sharing the proceeds of a sale where appropriate).
- 4.13 Further legal action will be considered against residents that leave nuisance vehicles on our land, in line with their lease or tenancy agreement.

5.0 Legal framework

5.1 This policy is designed to comply with the following legislation and regulatory guidance:

- Refuse Disposal (Amenity) Act 1978
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005
- Tort (Interference with Goods) Act 1977
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Regulator of Social Housing Neighbourhood Standard

6.0 Related Hexagon policies and procedures

- Abandoned Vehicles Procedure
- Tenancy and lease agreements
- Anti-social behaviour policy and procedure