

## Motion on Scrap Metal Dealers

### 1. Motion: Scrap Metal Dealers

**Councillor Richard Stay, Executive Member for External Affairs, Central Bedfordshire Council, supported by Councillor Martin Tett, Leader, Buckinghamshire County Council**

**Proposes that:**

“The issue of metal theft is a national problem which affects every part of our society, from stolen remembrance plaques to copper wiring from our infrastructure. This insidious practice requires urgent action to regulate and control the disposal of stolen metals.

Central Bedfordshire has broad, cross-party support for a local licensing regime which will be effective and simple to implement.

Central Bedfordshire seeks the support of conference for a local solution in line with Government’s stated ambition to allow local authorities to do what is in the best interests of their residents.”

Supporting information is provided by Central Bedfordshire Council in the **Appendix** to this report.

### ***LGA Comment***

Following on from the motion from Centro about metal theft at last year's General Assembly the Safer and Stronger Communities and Environment and Housing Boards have highlighted the impact metal theft has on councils, produced a toolkit outlining what councils can do to reduce metal theft, and lobbied the responsible Home Office minister for a strengthening of the regulatory regime around scrap metal dealers. As a result of the work the Home Office have accepted the case for improving the operating at scrap metal dealers, and made urgent amendments to the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill as it neared the end of its passage through parliament that will force scrap metal dealers to move to cashless transactions, when they come into force in the autumn.

The two Boards have continued to make the case for a new bill to replace the outdated legislation governing scrap metal dealers. Although there is a broad coalition of organisations that support this, and cross-party support for it in parliament it was disappointing that there was nothing in the Queen's Speech. However Richard

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Ottoway MP will be tabling a private members bill in parliament that will replace the existing registration arrangements for scrap metal dealers with a new licensing regime administered and enforced by local authorities. We anticipate that this will mean the new licensing regime is in place in 2013.