

Vehicle Replacement Programme

Cabinet	15 June 2023
Report Author	Matthew Sanham, Head of Finance and Acting Head of Operations
Portfolio Holder	Cllr Steve Albon, Portfolio Holder for Cleansing and Coastal Services
Status	For Decision
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	Yes
Reasons for Key:	Decision which involves the incurring of expenditure, or the making of savings, by the Council, which are anticipated to be £250,000 or above.
Ward:	All wards

Executive Summary:

The 2023/24 capital programme includes provision for the replacement of a substantial proportion of the council's vehicle fleet and in line with its Net Zero Strategy, where possible opportunities for diesel alternatives have been budgeted and will be explored. In accordance with section 13.03b of the constitution, this report seeks approval of a key decision to spend against this agreed budget allocation for the purchase of replacement vehicles.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet approve Option 1 of this report to purchase 4 x 12t vehicles from the allocated £2.155m from this year's approved capital programme budget on the purchase of replacement vehicles.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

The 2023/24 capital programme includes a budget of £0.890m for vehicle replacement along with £1.265m of slipped 2022/23 funding. This report requests approval of a key decision for the initial spend on 4 x 12t Vehicles from the allocated £2.155m on agreed replacements in 2023/24.

Legal

The Council will follow the procurements process via an approved framework agreement. The framework call off includes warranty requirements and timescales for delivery of vehicles. No specific legal issues have been identified.

Corporate

The council operates an in-house cleansing service. A comprehensive vehicle replacement programme is necessary in order for the council to meet statutory obligations in terms of the collection of household waste as required by the Environmental Protection Act 1990. The council's vehicles have a finite life beyond which it is uneconomical to continue to maintain and operate them. In accordance with section 13.03b of the constitution, this report seeks approval of a key decision to commit from the £2.155m of the 2023/24 budget allocation for the purchase of 4 x 12t replacement vehicles.

Risk Management

No action on this item would result in the non delivery of the key service objectives for the residents of Thanet, this could result in:

- Loss of confidence
- Reputational damage
- Increased pressure on an already stretched service

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no direct equality implications arising from this report, however the delivery and implementation of and budgetary changes will consider this as part of the budget setting process and be reported to members in due course.

It is important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) and show evidence that due consideration has been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Environment
- Communities

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The council runs an in-house cleansing service and operates a large fleet of vehicles of various types and sizes. A vehicle replacement budget appears annually in the capital programme for the replacement of vehicles when they reach an age beyond which they are economical to maintain.

2. Current Situation

- 2.1 This report seeks Cabinet's approval to spend from the agreed £2.115m of the 2023/24 allocated budget on the purchase of 4 x 12t replacement vehicles in the council's fleet that have reached the end of their useful life. These purchases have been considered in line with the council's agreed Net Zero strategy and although where possible and based on advances in technology, we have allowed for EV and the additional associated cost of these, due to constraints around current infrastructure, vehicle range and requirements it will not be possible to purchase these particular vehicles as diesel alternatives.
- 2.2 Moving forward, where practicable and within the agreed budget allocated for vehicle replacements we will be looking at Diesel alternatives and part of the agreed funds identified within this report are for this specific purpose.
- 2.3 A climate change project coordinator has been employed to lead on the EV charging point plan for possible new TDC electric vehicles. The electric supply and position of the chargers are being investigated. Electric panel vans and 3.5 tonne vehicles (e.g. caged tippers) may be suitable for our fleet and will be trialled this summer. If the specifications of the vehicles and the necessary infrastructure are appropriate, these electric versions will be purchased within the 23/24 replacement programme.
- 2.4 Over and above this approved as part of the capital programme, there are funds allocated for infrastructure investment, to include but not be limited to, charging points at the depot and supply upgrades.

3. Options

- 3.1 Option 1 - Approve the key decision to spend from the £2.115m of this year's approved capital programme budget on the purchase of replacement vehicles.
- 3.2 Option 2 - Do not approve this key decision. Note this would ultimately leave the council unable to fulfil statutory obligations with regard to cleansing services.

Contact Officer: Matthew Sanham (Acting Director of Finance and Operations)

Reporting to: Mike Humber (Director of Environment)

Annex List

None

Background Papers

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell (Acting Deputy Chief Executive)

Legal: Sameera Khan (Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer)