

Purchase of 2 x Mechanical Sweeper Vehicles

Overview and Scrutiny Panel 15 February 2024

Report Author Matt Elmer, Head of Cleansing Services

Portfolio Holder Cllr Steve Albon, Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Coastal Services

Status For Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Key Decision Yes

Reasons for Key An Executive Decision that involves incurring expenditure anticipated to be £250,000 or above

Ward: All wards

Executive Summary:

To enhance our street cleansing provision, Cabinet will be asked to approve the purchase of two 7.5 tonne mechanical sweepers that have been built into the fleet replacement plan.

These vehicles are used predominantly for cleansing of roads as they are too heavy to be used on pavements and will be particularly beneficial in the autumn and winter.

These vehicles will double the current provision, and replace the current equivalent vehicle which is being hired rather than owned by the council.

Recommendation(s):

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are asked to:

1. Note the content of this report and the recommendation that will be made to the extraordinary meeting of Cabinet on the 29th February 2024 to approve the purchase of two 7.5 tonne mechanical sweepers.
2. Consider the contents of this report and having done so, consider making any appropriate and relevant recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Value for Money

The vehicles have been modified to our specifications and are within the allocated budget and as a result we will be exploring purchase, via an appropriate framework. Purchase of

these vehicles will also mean that the current hired variation which is being used at a cost of £700.00 per week can be returned, generating a reduction in spend associated with vehicle hire.

Legal

This report is not for decision and as such there are no legal implications arising. In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution the Overview and Scrutiny panel may make recommendations for consideration by Cabinet.

S.111 Local Government Act 1972 and S.1 Localism Act 2011 permits a Council to do anything calculated to facilitate the delivery of its powers, functions and duties and this includes entering into contracts and service arrangements necessary to deliver those function

Procurement will be subject to compliance with public procurement legislation and the Council's contract standing orders.

Risk Management

The introduction of a second sweeping vehicle would greatly improve the standard of street cleansing, this would assist in ensuring we meet our cleansing service standards.

Purchasing these vehicles will also give us control over availability and maintenance of them rather than this being outsourced.

Corporate

As well as the operational benefits, this proposal is firmly aligned with the draft corporate plan objective to keep our district safe and clean This will see us deliver against an agreed budget allocation.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

The proposal has limited relevance to the duty in respect of the protected characteristics. It is the officer's assessment that the duty is not engaged by this proposal.

An equalities screening tool has been completed and there is no requirement for an EQiA as there are no equalities implications arising.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Environment
- Communities

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 The vehicles are scheduled to work seven days a week throughout Thanet, during the standard working shift (6am-2.15pm).
- 1.2 To maintain the vehicles working life and performance, key components such as the filter system must be thoroughly cleaned after each use, this has an impact on the daily productivity.
- 1.3 The proposed vehicles are both diesel powered. Electric versions have been trialled and were less operationally efficient and effective. The relatively small market for such vehicles and lack of observational data on service life raised concerns in terms of maintenance, part availability and whole life cost.

2.0 Current Situation and Proposed Works

- 2.1 The single hired vehicle is currently covering as best it can the scheduled work of two vehicles. This obviously means large parts of the working day is taken up with either cleaning or tipping of the vehicle, a problem exacerbated by the fact only one of the two expected vehicles is operating.

3.0 Options

- 3.1 Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel are invited to review and scrutinise this report, making any agreed recommendations to Cabinet in advance of its meeting on 29 February 2024. An options appraisal was conducted and the following options put forward:

Option 1 – Do not approve. This would mean continuing with the current service provision and the associated operational/reputational/financial risks of continuing to use the hired vehicle. **Not recommended.**

Option 2 – Approve one new vehicle. A potential compromise solution; could either replace the hired vehicle and continue to provide half the expected service, or operate two vehicles one owned and the other hired. A single vehicle will not be able to keep up with the road sweeping schedule. Continuing to hire a vehicle is not economically viable as there is a burden on revenue funds. **Not recommended.**

Option 3 – Approve the planned and budgeted purchase of two vehicles for an estimated £175k per vehicle, which exceeds the £250,000 threshold for a key decision, via an agreed framework. This decision will allow Cleansing Services to operate a full service with vehicles owned and maintained by the council. **Recommended.**

4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 This proposal will be presented to the Cabinet at its meeting on 29 February 2024.

Contact Officer: Matt Elmer, Head of Cleansing
Reporting to: Mike Humber, Director of Environment

Annex List

None

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Matthew Sanham (Head of Finance and Procurement)

Legal: Ingrid Brown, Head of Legal and Democracy and Monitoring Officer