



**REPORT of  
DIRECTOR OF CUSTOMERS AND COMMUNITY**

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to  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
24 MAY 2016**

**AND**

**FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES COMMITTEE  
14 JUNE 2016**

**REPLACEMENT VAN FOR THE WASTE AND STREET SCENE TEAM**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to bring forward the capital programme scheduled for 2017 / 18 to purchase a replacement van for the Waste and Street Scene Team.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (i) that Members agree to bring forward the capital programme to 2016 / 17 to replace the panel van currently used by the Waste and Street Scene team.

To the Council (via the Finance and Corporate Services Committee):

- (ii) that subject to (i), that a capital programme of £12,000 is established for 2016 / 17, which will be funded by the underspend in the capital programme established for the waste contract.

**3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES**

- 3.1 On the 1 April 2016 the Waste Away panel van was being driven by a council officer when smoke started to come from the engine. The van was eventually examined by a local commercial garage and it was confirmed that the van has a mechanical fault (the engine is damaged beyond repair). The van was 14 years old and was before the mechanical failure coming to the end of its useful economic life. Since the fault the waste team have had to hire a van at a cost of £535 a month.
- 3.2 The replacement van was due to be considered by Members as part of the 2017 / 18 capital programme (£12,000). However, given the current circumstances, it would be more cost effective to bring forward the capital programme now rather than spending any more money to hire a van.

- 3.3 The Waste team use the van on a daily basis throughout the year to complete their work, the loss of the van has resulted in the team having to hire a replacement vehicle. The panel van is used regularly for driving to events and promoting recycling and waste reduction such as road shows, school activities, parish council meetings, presentations at various community meetings. These happen every year throughout the year but are intensified this year due to the necessary education of the new service. A short wheeled based 'Transit' type van is the best size vehicle to transport the many items required; gazebo, free standing banners, wheeled bins, bags, promotional models, compost bins etc.
- 3.4 Several times a week there are instances when the Waste and Street Scene team will have to go out to rectify a situation where a customer has a valid complaint, this can be to deliver wheeled bins, or pick them up which is not possible in any other vehicle. The waste team have to investigate flytips and therefore need a vehicle to bring back dumped waste and black sacks which they cannot put in their own vehicles.
- 3.5 The van is the only vehicle of its size in the Council's fleet which is why a replacement is required by the waste team and other departments within the council. Facilities frequently borrow it if they have large items to pick up and drop off e.g. polling booths, DIY materials for office repairs and taking rubbish to the Household Waste and Recycling Centre. Environmental Health use it if they need to transport equipment. It is often used by Leisure for transporting fencing etc. at events. Due to the frequency of demand by other council services a van booking system has been established on the intranet.
- 3.6 Without promotion and awareness raising of the need to recycle the amount recycled in this district will go down, although it is not possible to put a figure on this. As Members will be aware Maldon District Council receives a payment from Essex County Council for every tonne it recycles which contributes towards offsetting the cost of the refuse contract. This sum is not inconsiderable, but it would reduce if recycling is not continually promoted.
- 3.7 Through careful and prudent spending the capital costs for the mobilisation of the new waste fund have come in under budget, the final underspend will not be confirmed until the end of 2016 / 17. However, it is envisaged that there would be sufficient underspend available to fund the new replacement van. The purchase of a second hand van has been considered however, the saving on a suitable one are little and the warrantee on a new vehicle is a benefit.

#### **4. CONCLUSION**

- 4.1 The Council requires a replacement van as there are no other vehicles of this capacity. The requirement is not only for use by the waste team but also available for use by other service areas within the council. It is more cost effective to replace the vehicle than to spend money on hiring charges.

## 5. IMPACT ON CORPORATE GOALS

- 5.1 The use of the van has a direct impact on ‘Reducing Waste and Increasing Recycling’ which is a high level outcome of the Council’s corporate goal of ‘Protecting and Shaping the District’.

## 6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Without a van the quality of service which the waste team are able to supply to customer would be reduced; unable to respond to complaints promptly and deal with issues of non-collected waste, also there would be reduced ability to undertake presentations and attend events.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – There no particular equalities impacts.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – A reduction in recycling performance could have an impact on the Councils commitment to meet the requirements of the Essex Waste Inter Authority Agreement in relation to food waste and recycling. This raises a risk in relation the Council’s commitment to the waste partnership.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – The van is primarily used by the waste service to promote recycling and deal with reported problems. If the van is not replaced, this could impact on the recycling rates over time which would have an impact on the Recycling Credit income levels. The van is scheduled for replacement on the 2017 / 18 capital programme. It is not cost effective to hire the van in the long term and the most cost effective way to replace the vehicle as there is a business need for it. The expenditure will be fully funded by underspend on the capital budget established as part of the new waste contract.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – Without a van the beneficial environmental impacts of recycling would be reduced and the ability of the Street Scene team to keep the district environment clean may be reduced.

Background Papers: None.

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### **ADDENDUM:**

The Community Services Committee considered this report at its meeting on 24 May 2016 and agreed the recommendations as set out at Section 2 above.