



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot  
Neath Port Talbot Council

## **NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**Streetscene & Engineering Cabinet Board**  
24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

**Report of the Head of Planning and Public Protection**  
N. Pearce

### **Matter for Decision**

**Wards Affected: All Wards**

### **Vehicle Procurement**

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

To seek authorisation to procure a 4x4 vehicle to assist the environmental monitoring work undertaken by the Environmental Health service.

#### **Executive Summary:**

Whilst there are a variety of vehicles available within the council's fleet, those which are currently available within the pool car system are more general purpose cars and vans and are not necessarily suitable for off road purposes. Given the terrain visited by the officers within the general environmental health service to undertake their monitoring activities both in a regulatory capacity and an income generating capacity, a 4x4 vehicle is required. This report highlights

the costs and benefits of procuring such a vehicle to enable the efficient and effective delivery of our services.

### **Background:**

Environmental Health undertakes a wide variety of different duties. Within the last year, as part of the council's programme for income generation, the insourcing of environmental monitoring has taken place.

The first site where such monitoring takes place is at Giants Grave which is a closed land fill site at Briton Ferry. This site is vast and undulating and the service has for the last year relied on use of all wheel drive vehicles from the council's car pool. These vehicles are required 3 days a week. Unfortunately such vehicles are not suitable for the terrain being encountered by the officers. As a consequence one such vehicle was recently accidentally damaged following a grounding incident which resulted in £1,590 worth of damage.

Investigation into the suitability of the use of the all wheel drive vehicles for the environmental monitoring at Giants Grave concluded that a dedicated off road vehicle was essential. The dedicated use of a 4x4 vehicle will help officers deliver the environmental monitoring responsibilities safely and could also be made available for other users if and when they are required to access sites 'off road'.

For example, Environmental Health are required to visit a number of farms and off-road locations to carry out statutory functions relating to private drinking water sampling and air quality monitoring. At the moment, officers use the all wheel drive vehicles from the car pool.

When the vehicle is not used for off road work it will be available for officers in planning and public protection to utilise instead of booking a pool vehicle.

Having considered the needs of the service and sought professional advice from an off road driving instructor, it is considered that an Isuzu D max double cab with Truckman top or similar is an appropriate vehicle. It is anticipated, based on experience from other services, that this vehicle will have a 9 year life span.

There are two methods for securing a new vehicle:

- Outright Purchase - Can be used to acquire new or pre-owned vehicles or items of plant. Monthly charges to cover management and maintenance will need to be budgeted for.
- Contract Hire – A lease arrangement can be secured for a two year rolling period however this will include strict criteria relating to condition and damage at the end of the lease period for which there can be additional financial penalties. There will also be additional Fleet charges to be budgeted for.

The outright purchase of the vehicle based on previous purchases by other services will cost in the region of £23,665, with an additional annual charge of £2,376 for servicing, safety checks, road tax, insurance and tracker. After 9 years it is anticipated to have a residual value of £3-4k.

To lease such a vehicle on a two year lease will cost £3,493.96 (exc VAT) per year. If this is extrapolated over a 9 year period it will amount to a cost of £31,445 with no residual value at the end of this period. The same additional costs for servicing, safety checks, road tax, insurance and tracker will also apply to the lease vehicle.

Therefore the breakdown of costs over the 9 year period are as follows:

|                         | <b>Outright purchase</b> | <b>Lease vehicle</b> |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Vehicle costs</b>    | £23,665                  | £31,445              |
| <b>Additional costs</b> | £21,384                  | £21,384              |
| <b>Residual value</b>   | £3 - 4,000               | £0                   |

## **Financial Impacts:**

The most cost effective method of securing such a vehicle over a nine year period is through outright purchase, as this will cost £7,780 less than leasing a vehicle. With the outright purchase option, the Council will also be able to sell the vehicle for the residual value of between £3 - 4,000, which is not available for the leasing option.

Therefore the end cost could be between £10,780 to £11,780 less than the leasing option. In addition the leasing option, may incur additional penalty payments associated with potential damage which may further increase the cost of leasing.

During 2018/19, Environmental Health spent £6,681.61 using vehicles from the car pool for Giants Grave, Air Quality Monitoring and Private Water Supplies visits. If we have our own vehicle, this annual cost will be saved.

## **Integrated Impact Assessment:**

A first stage impact assessment has been undertaken to assist the Council in discharging its legislative duties (under the Equality Act 2010, the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

The first stage assessment has indicated that a more in-depth assessment is not required. The outright purchase of a 4x4 vehicle will not adversely impact upon either the 7 wellbeing goals or the 5 ways of working as defined within the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

## **Valleys Communities Impacts:**

No implications.

**Workforce Impacts:**

No implications.

**Legal Impacts:**

No implications.

**Risk Management Impacts:**

If an appropriately designed vehicle is not purchased the use of pool cars which are not suitable for off road driving will potentially result in damage to those vehicles the costs of which will be borne by the service, in addition to potentially placing the drivers at risk of injury.

**Consultation:**

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended having regard to the first stage Integrated Impact Assessment which has been undertaken, that the service procures through outright purchase an Isuzu D max double cab with Truckman top or similar.

**Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

The continued use of vehicles within the council's car pool which are not fit for the purpose required to deliver both regulatory and income generating services, is neither cost effective nor does it adequately protect the health and safety of staff undertaking such duties.

**Implementation of Decision:**

The decision is proposed for implementation after the three day call in period.

**List of Background Papers:**

- Estimate of price for Outright purchase from Fleet Services
- Quote from leasing Company

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