

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

Date **24 October 2013**

Report of: **Director of Street Scene**

Subject: **GLOBAL POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS) FOR VEHICLE FLEET**

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of the procurement of a GPS system for the Council's vehicle fleet.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Panel notes the contents of this report.

INTRODUCTION

1. The department of Streetscene is responsible for providing a number of key services across the borough including the following:
 - Collection of refuse, recycling, garden and commercial waste
 - Street cleansing
 - Graffiti removal
 - Grounds maintenance
 - The burial service
 - Maintenance of assets such as benches and street signs

2. In order to undertake the above throughout the borough, Streetscene deploys in total 68 vehicles, detailed as follows:
 - Grounds maintenance
 - 15 vans
 - 5 tractors
 - 1 lorry

 - Street Cleansing
 - 2 lorries
 - 2 large road sweepers
 - 5 precinct sweepers
 - 12 transit tipper trucks

 - Refuse and Recycling
 - 21 Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV's)
 - 1 lorry
 - 4 vans

3. There are also 7 other vehicles used by a number of other council departments, these include Enforcement, the Transport Repair Unit (TRU), and the Rangers service. There are an additional 12 vehicles (verge cutters) that are based at the council depot which are used by Streetscene but would not be suitable for tracking, bringing the total fleet of vehicles to 87.

4. This report sets out the options for, and potential benefits and costs of installing such a system in the main vehicle fleet.

BENEFITS OF A GPS TRACKING SYSTEM

5. The provision of a real time vehicle tracking system would provide a number of advantages to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the above services.
 - A potential reduction in fuel consumption
 - A contribution to environmental sustainability through a reduction in carbon emissions
 - Improved lone working management
 - Improved supervision, performance monitoring and increased workforce productivity

- The ability to plan routes more efficiently - optimising resources
 - Reducing the risk of accidents through monitoring of vehicle speeds
 - Minimising the risk of unauthorised activities
 - Being a web based system, Management will be able to view information via a PC or handheld device
6. Since May 2012, basic tracking devices have been operating in ten vehicles used by the Council's Building Services department. In the time that they have been using the devices, the benefits to the service are already apparent and include:
- Improved service due to a quicker response to customer requests,
 - Tradesman can be located in the local area and assigned a new job on the same day if required
 - The devices provide feedback on the vehicle speed and location allowing for better management information and improved monitoring of services
 - Management are able to locate all of the vehicles throughout the day and tailor the service to meet customer demand.
 - Average fuel costs per vehicle have reduced since the system was introduced.

AVAILABLE SYSTEMS

7. The basic requirement is for a web based tracking system accessible from a normal desktop computer (PC) or handheld device with internet access subject to the appropriate software being installed. Access to archived information for at least one year would be necessary.
8. Two main suppliers have been contacted as part of a soft market testing exercise. A cost comparison of the suppliers is set out at Appendix (A) both of the systems are web based.

OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Do Nothing

9. This will mean that opportunities to improve workforce productivity, minimise spending pressures and improve customer service will be more difficult to achieve.

Purchase or Lease of a GPS Tracking System

10. The purchase or lease of a basic GPS tracking system would provide a number of operational benefits and improve service efficiency as listed previously.

PURCHASING AND LEASING OPTIONS

11. In relation to the option above consideration needs to be given as to whether to purchase the devices outright or lease them over a three year period. Figures have been obtained through soft market testing from two possible suppliers based on a fleet of 80 vehicles and these can be found at Appendix (A).

12. The warranty period when purchasing the devices is only one or two years, so if anything goes wrong after this period it would be the council's responsibility to meet the costs of any repairs. It is also anticipated that after three years the devices may have reached their useful life expectancy due to wear and tear in a dirty and dusty operating environment.
13. If the devices are leased, the warranty covers the length of the contract, and service and support from the suppliers would be available during the full length of the lease term.
14. At the end of the lease period there are three options, these being:
 - (a) Upgrade to the newest equipment at the latest costs
 - (b) Take an airtime only agreement to continue with the out of lease equipment
 - (c) Terminate the lease agreement by giving three months' notice
15. Following meetings with the Director of Finance and consultations with the Councils Information and Communication Technology (ICT) department, a tendering exercise will be undertaken to procure the most appropriate system on the basis of a 3 year lease agreement.

FINANCE

16. The revenue cost of this proposal, approximately £20,000 per annum over three years, is to be met from the net income received from the sale of dry mixed recyclables via the Project Integra disposal contract. This is possible with nil addition to the General Fund budget, as current recycling volumes indicate that the budgeted income will be exceeded to this extent.
17. Decisions relating to the long term future of the system can be made when an assessment of the benefits is done towards the latter part of the three year contract.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

18. The project will be managed by the council's Transport Manager. The Project Team will consist of:
 - Streetscene Operations Manager
 - Refuse and Recycling Manager
 - A representative from ICT

The Project Sponsor will be the Director of Streetscene.

PROJECT TIMESCALES

19. This will be dependent upon the availability of resources within Streetscene and ICT. A procurement exercise commencing in November 2013 would enable an implementation of the system within the 2013/14 financial year.

RISK ASSESSMENT

20. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report

CONCLUSION

21. The installation of a GPS based tracking system in the council's operational fleet could potentially provide a range of benefits that will result in improved customer service, efficiencies in service planning and delivery, fuel usage, reduced environmental impact and the ability to improve scheduling of rounds.
22. Currently Fareham Borough Council is one of the few local authorities in Hampshire that does not utilise GPS tracking systems within the vehicle fleet.
23. Sufficient revenue funds have been identified to meet the cost of this proposal for three years, at which time the benefits can be fully evaluated.

Background Papers: None

Reference Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A – Initial Cost Comparison (Soft Market Testing)

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Trevor Beard. (Ext 4836)

INITIAL COST COMPARISON (SOFT MARKET TESTING)

APPENDIX A

	Example A	Example B
BASIC VEHICLE TRACKING DEVICES- PURCHASED		
Outright purchase and installation cost per vehicle	£545	£465
Total purchase and installation cost for 80 vehicles	£43,600	£37200
Warranty (if purchased outright)	2 years	1-2 years
Monthly subscription cost per unit	£8.90	£8.90
Annual subscription for 80 vehicles	£8544	£8544
4 handheld devices for Supervisors	£800	£800
Total Cost (over 3 years)	£70,032	£63,632

BASIC VEHICLE TRACKING – LEASE RENTAL – 3 YEAR TERM	Example A	Example B
Monthly Lease cost per unit (3 year term)	£18.43	£14.44
Total lease cost for 80 vehicles (3 year term)	£53,100	£41,500
Monthly subscription cost per unit	Included in unit cost	£8.90
Annual subscription for 80 vehicles	Included in unit cost	£8544
Lease warranty (length of the contract)	3 years	3 years
4 handheld devices for Supervisors	£800	£800
Total Cost (over 3 years)	£53,100	£50,044