

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to Streetscene Policy Development and Review Panel

Date 09 Jan 2014

Report of: Director of Street Scene

Subject: BUS SHELTER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise Members on the current arrangements for the maintenance of bus shelters across the borough.

RECOMMENDATION

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

INTRODUCTION

1. At the current time, there are 161 bus shelters across the borough of Fareham. They are mainly located along the main arterial routes across the borough.
2. The shelters are located at various 'well used' stops to provide protection from the elements for users of the bus service predominately provided by First Bus, but other bus operators do have had hoc services that also pass by.

MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

3. On 27 March 2001, a contract was awarded to Primesight Ltd to maintain the bus shelters in Fareham. The contract is for a period of 15 years ending in 26 March 2016.
4. Primesight agreed to operate bus shelters in the borough based upon exclusive advertising rights on 47 shelters in return for undertaking maintenance of the remaining 120 bus shelters that were present at the time. The contract also allowed for an additional twenty bus shelters over the lifespan of the contract.
5. The table below highlights the breakdown of the current numbers and it can be seen that the numbers of bus shelters has increased by forty one since the start of the contract so is in excess of what was originally agreed.

	Original contract Nos.	Extra shelters allowed for	Further shelters.	Total
Primesight	47	-	2	49
FBC	73	20	19	112
Total	120	20	21	161

6. The 49 bus shelters erected and operated by Primesight, including all the advertisement panels, and signs are the property of Primesight with the remaining shelters being in the Council's ownership. It is possible, although unlikely, that Primesight could remove all of the advertising shelters that they originally installed, at the end of the contract period.
7. A summary of the maintenance to be undertaken by Primesight can be found in Appendix A

CURRENT CONDITION OF BUS SHELTER STOCK

8. The table below splits the current bus shelter stock into two types, those that are powder coated aluminium or those that are of an older galvanised type.

	Powder coated aluminium shelter	Old galvanised / aluminium shelter	Total
Primesight	49	-	49
FBC	77	35	112
Total	126	35	161

9. The 49 powder coated aluminium ones erected by Primesight are nearly fifteen years old and are beginning to show their age. The advertising panels require frequent

attention, the electrical installations are becoming old, the paint is beginning to peel off in places and the polycarbonate glazing panels are fairly scratched and difficult to see through.

10. The ages of the 77 powder coated aluminium ones belonging to the Council range from 1 year to at least 12 years old. The remaining 35 older shelters are between 15 and 20 years old and look quite unattractive although still protect people from the elements.

BUDGETS

11. There is a very limited annual revenue budget available for bus shelters, due to the fact that the Primesight contract includes for much of the maintenance and repair obligations.

Budget	2103/14
Employees related	£1,600
Premises related	£7,000
Internal recharges	£600
Total	£9,200

12. With approximately £7000 per annum it allows for the total replacement of approximately two old bus shelters or the repair/upgrade of three or four shelters per year. With over thirty five old bus shelters it would take many years to replace the entire stock in the borough.

13. Since Streetscene took over the responsibility for bus shelters the following have been replaced, some of which have utilised funds from Hampshire County Council (HCC) and Fareham Borough Council's Community Action Team (CATS) funding.

- (a) Coach Hill, Titchfield (new shelter)
- (b) Locks Road, Locks Road X 2 (replacement)
- (c) Locks Heath District Centre, Locks Heath x 1 (replacement)
- (d) Hillson Drive, Fareham x 2 (new shelters)
- (e) White Hart Lane, Portchester (replacement)
- (f) The Drive, Stubbington x 1 (replacement)
- (g) Botley Road, Burrridge x 1 (replacement)

14. In addition to the above there is a possibility that a replacement bus shelter along Newgate Lane may be provided by HCC (should funding become available) as part of the Newgate Lane road improvements.

15. As part of the Daedalus development, there are proposals to provide two new bus shelters to facility the new College. One shelter will be in Gosport and one in Fareham borough.

CURRENT ISSUES

16. There are a number of issues that have come to light since Streetscene has taken on the responsibility for bus shelter maintenance and these are as follows:
- (a) The total of number of bus shelters now in the borough exceeds the number allowed for in the original contract with Primesight. Therefore, twenty one shelters and their maintenance could be considered to be outside of the remit of the contract.
 - (b) The specification for the maintenance of the advertising shelters is not the same as for the non-advertising shelters owned by FBC, for example there is no consistency of work items such as removal of graffiti or fly posting.
 - (c) The maintenance contractor employed by Primesight isn't local and therefore the response to emergencies is not as quick as it could be. Therefore, in a number of cases, it has been necessary for the Council to ensure a situation is safe because it needs attention immediately.
 - (d) Although the advertising shelters are visited every two weeks or so, mainly for the purpose of changing the advertising posters, it seems that other shelters are not visited very frequently at all. And although there are very few complaints about shelters and their maintenance, it is usually in relation to their cleanliness.
 - (e) With regard to the general positioning of shelters, it has become apparent that their location can become obsolete if and when First Bus decides that their routes are no longer viable. An example is the two shelters that are located adjacent the Crematorium that are no longer used because the bus does not pass by anymore.

THE WAY FORWARD

17. At the current time, the Council is unable to alter the contract or its contract term unless it is was by mutual agreement. At this late stage in the contract (just over two years to run) it is unlikely to be beneficial to end it early unless alternative plans have been explored and put into place and which could be undertaken in a seamless manner.
18. Hart and Rushmoor District Councils are in a similar situation to Fareham and are aiming to go out to tender in February 2014 to find suppliers who will operate their bus shelter stock. This tender will be a framework agreement which will be available for other Councils to join either at the start or during the term of the contract.
19. Streetscene officers intend to become involved in the preparation of the specification being produced so that any tender taking place has the potential to be beneficial to Fareham in the event that the framework is adopted.

CHALLENGES AHEAD

20. This report covers the current maintenance responsibilities for bus shelters; it does not discuss the provision of the bus shelters themselves. There are a number of issues that need to be addressed going forward. These include:

- (a) The question of whether the council should continue to provide bus shelters.
- (b) The requirement for a more strategic approach to bus shelter provision, especially in light of future developments such as Welborne, in north Fareham.
- (c) The capital investment required to bring the bus shelters up to an higher standard, and an ongoing replacement programme

21. Members are asked to consider these questions at the meeting. This would assist officers in preparing a strategy for adoption when the current contract ends.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

23. At the current time, Primesight has the contract to manage and maintain the 161 bus shelters throughout the borough, which comes to an end in March 2016. Over the next two years, decisions will need to be made regarding the retendering opportunities, potential refurbishment programme and a more strategic approach to bus shelter provision.

Background Papers:

None

Reference Papers:

None

Enquiries:

For further information on this report please contact Sue Woodbridge. (Ext 4546)

Primesight owned shelters – maintenance schedule

Activity	Response
Quality Check	Visit every 20 working days and carry out a total quality check
Cleaning	10 working days in Portchester, Stubbington and Fareham towns 20 working days elsewhere
Graffiti / fly posting	Offensive – remove within one working day Non offensive – remove within three working days
Emergency and structural damage	Respond within 4 hours
Glazing repairs	Respond within 3 working days
Electrical repairs	3 working days – faults like replacement fuses and bulbs 10 working days – minor faults including rewire 10-20 working days – major faults in supply
Urgent repairs	Within 3 working days
Non urgent repairs	Within 10 working days
Structural safety check	6 monthly inspection
Electrical safety check	3 monthly inspection

Council owned shelters – Maintenance schedule

Painting	Paint FBC shelters in first year of agreement and thereafter every three years
Repairs	Make good any missing or damaged glazing panels
Cleaning	Visit on a four weekly cycle