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## **PURCHASE OF MECHANICAL SWEEPER**

### **1 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 This report requests the drawdown of £85,000 from earmarked reserves to allow the purchase of a mechanical sweeper that is suitable for cleaning pavements; this will supplement the existing fleet of sweepers, which can only access and clean the roads.

### **2 BACKGROUND**

#### **Recycling and Street Cleansing Contracts**

- 2.1 The recycling and street cleansing contracts were extended for another 7 years from April 2015, following the initial 7-year term. The contract is due to finish at the end of March 2022.
- 2.2 As part of the contract extension, a variation was negotiated to allow a reduction in the annual contract price in return for the Council financing and purchasing the required vehicles to service the contract. £2.3 million was allocated in the 2015/16 Capital Programme to purchase a fleet of waste and street scene vehicles for the recycling and street cleansing contracts. Total capital expenditure incurred totalled approximately £2.1m, with the remaining £186,000 transferred to a ring-fenced reserve, put aside for any future replacement of fleet vehicles in the lifetime of the contract.

#### **Existing Mechanical Sweepers**

- 2.3 A shortfall in design of the existing sweepers purchased in 2015-16 has resulted in the street scene contract struggling to meet targets set out in the schedule of pavement sweeping, with the contract having to resort to the manual sweeping of the pavements. This is particularly resource intensive and, in practical terms, the schedule cannot be maintained without potentially increasing the labour used if manual sweeping is to continue.

### **3 PROCUREMENT OF A NEW MECHANICAL SWEEPER**

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Council purchase a mechanical sweeper suitable for accessing pavements to aid delivery of the contract, in line with the existing contractual arrangement for the supply of vehicles to service the contract.
- 3.2 It is estimated that the new mechanical sweeper will cost in the range of £70,000 to £85,000.
- 3.3 The mechanical sweeper specification will set out that the vehicle maximum laden weight will not exceed 3.5 tonnes, so as to be acceptable for use on highway pavements and shopping areas. The vehicle will have an enclosed cab and be licensed for the highway, so as to allow independent travel around the District. There will still be a requirement to augment the schedule with manual sweeping to access hard to reach areas.

- 3.4 SUEZ is in the process of field trialling a number of mechanical sweepers designed to be specifically suitable for use on the pavements and small spaces. As part of that process, electric powered mechanical sweepers are also to be trialled, with benefits in terms of emissions and reduced noise pollution being given serious consideration. However, it should be noted that whatever vehicle is purchased it must meet the requirements of SUEZ in order to deliver the contract. This is to ensure that the contractor is held accountable for the maintenance of the vehicle and use of the new vehicle to deliver the service.

#### **4 CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENT FOR VEHICLE PURCHASES**

- 4.1 The Council shall purchase a vehicle that meets the agreed vehicle specification and will make this available to the contractor to provide the service.
- 4.2 The existing contract sets out that the contractor will maintain vehicles in proper repair and condition in accordance with the general specification and so that they are capable of being used for the relevant activity they are designed for.
- 4.3 The Council will retain ownership of the mechanical sweeper at the end of the contract period. The Council, if it wishes, may arrange for an independent inspection to verify that the vehicle is in roadworthy condition, subject to wear and tear for its age, and capable of being used for the relevant activity it is designed for. The contractor will be responsible for any cost required to address any shortfall in the condition of the vehicle.

#### **5 RISK IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There is a risk that continuing to rely upon the manual sweeping of pavements may result in service delivery failure that could potentially be attributed to an oversight in providing the necessary vehicles to undertake the service correctly.

#### **6 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There is potentially an opportunity to trial an electric powered mechanical sweeper which, if procured, could represent the fore-runner to an electric fleet.

#### **7 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The cost of the sweeper can be met from existing earmarked reserves set aside for this purpose. There are no additional revenue costs associated with the purchase, as the service delivery falls within the remit of the existing contract.

**8 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 None other than the contractual arrangements mentioned within the report.

**9 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and found there to be no impacts (either positive or negative) on protected groups as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

**10 RECOMMENDATION**

10.1 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) That an addition to the 2019-20 Capital Programme of £85,000 be approved for the purchase of a mechanical sweeper.
- (2) That the drawdown of £85,000 from earmarked reserves be approved to finance the purchase.
- (3) That authority be delegated to the Assistant Director, Place & Environment, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment, to procure a suitable mechanical sweeper.



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**Background Papers:-**

None.

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