

MTC Policy and Resources Committee 2.12.20

Report No 2 Grounds Maintenance Vehicle

1. The ground staff vehicle needs re-placing. The staff have complained about fumes in the cab. Reportedly this has been investigated several times by three garages including the main dealer who supplied the vehicle. Despite this no garage has been able to identify any such issue or cause. Nevertheless, the grounds staff who use the van regularly are adamant there is an issue.
2. The vehicle is a 2012 plate, and was purchased by the Council in in 2013. The Asset Register currently states it is due for replacement after a 7-year period. The replacement value is stated as at £15,000, and the accrued value is £10,000.
3. Having consulted the ground staff any new vehicles needs to have a;
 - Relatively narrow to ensure access in some of the older town roads
 - X2 person cab (or king cab)
 - A flat bed rear, with drop sides, no wheel arches (as the staff need it to stand on)
 - Sufficient power to haul heavies loads
 - Safety chevrons on the rear end
 - Safety warning lights on the cab
 - MTC signs
4. Some research has been started and the scope of choice is limited. Other than existing make and model, narrow commercial vehicle of this specification are hard to come by and there does not appear to many options on the market.
5. A potential solution would be to purchase a 2-seater pick up, which can be purchased new for circa £24,000; and then to add a custom rear end. A company based in Chippenham were doing such conversations. An indicative cost for this work is circa. £3000 (aluminium back and fitting). An allowance would also be needed for the lights, chevrons, and signage. A suggested budget would £30,000.
6. No further research has yet identified a solution. However, it is envisaged the Council will need to provide for this in the coming months. The Committee are asked to consider both the specification and budget so provision is built into the budget (reserves) to enable the purchase as required. It is worth also noting that if agreed the Committee would eb prudent to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, and Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee, as a decisive purchase may be required: the two-seater pickups seemingly are difficult to source as double cabs are more common on the marketif this was the preferred vehicle solution.
7. The Committee are asked to consider the matter and instruct the Town Clerk accordingly.

Richard Spencer- Williams – Town Clerk 22.10.23