

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE- 23 MARCH 2005

LEISURE DEVELOPMENT – VEHICLE LEASES

Report by Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to lease essential vehicles for the safe and effective operation of the Leisure Development Section.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Leisure Development Section has, after consultation with colleagues in the Transport Section, agreed a programme of vehicle replacement.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The vehicles which require to be replaced started as part of the renewal programme, and are as follows:-

(i) M637 BSJ, Leisure Development Section 16 seater minibus, to be replaced by an 8 seater Minibus; and

(ii) A new lease is also required for a 3.5 Tonne Panel van.

- 3.2 The existing minibus was originally purchased using Urban Aid funding in 1995. This vehicle is now 10 years old and is no longer safe or appropriate for the needs of the department. The vehicle is unreliable, is incurring excessive ongoing maintenance costs and no longer meets the needs of a developing and proactive service.

- 3.3 At present the vehicle takes on the dual function of a minibus to transport staff and community groups and for the delivery of the section's Equipment Hire Service. Following consultation with staff in the Transport section and the review of the Equipment Hire Service, it is now deemed necessary to procure the vehicles at 3.1 above to fulfil the developing needs of the service.

- 3.4 It is envisaged that the relaunch of the Equipment Hire Service will greatly increase the public demand and attract additional income for the section, thus a dedicated delivery vehicle is vital to the success of this initiative. In addition, due to the rapid growth of the section's sports, health and walking services a dedicated minibus is required to ensure access to these services by the community. This will also result in savings in relation to the ad hoc hire of vehicles.

- 3.5 A summary of the lease requirements is detailed below:-

	Existing Vehicle	Replacement Vehicle	Approx Annual Lease costs	Period of Lease
A	M637 BSJ, 16 seater minibus	8 seater Minibus	£5750	3 years
B	N/A	3.5 Tonne Panel Van	£4750	3 years

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The costs for all lease and maintenance can be met from existing budgets.

5. LEGAL AUTHORITY/IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 European Union Procurement legislation has been adhered to in obtaining costs for these vehicles.

6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The work of the Leisure Development Section intersects closely with all areas of the community plan and the Council's emerging Cultural Strategy. The procurement of these vehicles will ensure greater public access to the range of innovative services.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The identified vehicles require replacement to ensure that service quality levels are maintained and improved. Procurement options have been examined and lease arrangements proposed in this report represent the most cost effective options.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 It is recommended that the Committee:-
- (i) approve the lease of the above vehicles
 - (ii) remit to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to instruct the Executive Head of Finance to secure the appropriate operating leases for the above; and
 - (iii) otherwise note this report.

William Stafford
Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services

WS/KK

2 March 2005

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Legal, Administration and Procurement Services, Tender Record Sheet.

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers above should telephone 01563 576264 and ask to speak to John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services.

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