

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE : 4 NOVEMBER 2004

TRANSPORT – LEASING OF REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

Report by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Social Work Committee approval for the lease of replacement vehicles for use by the Department of Educational and Social Services in support of the provision of front line services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Social Work Services operate a number of cars and car derived vans providing transportation for officers and equipment between service delivery points including units and service users own homes.

2.2 Older People's Services

The Cessnock Gardens and Ross Court residential units operate one small van each. These vehicles are utilised by the caretaking staff to enable them to travel between units and transport equipment used in the maintenance of the units' heating systems. The vehicles also allow access to the units at weekends for essential maintenance visits by the staff.

2.3 Community Alarms Service

The Community Alarm Service operates a total of four vehicles across the Authority. These vehicles enable the mobile wardens to provide services to 3,322 service users including routine visits, emergency response services, alarm fitting and testing services and some home care tasks where necessary.

2.4 Other Services

The other vans operated by the Department are used to provide a wide variety of services across the department including the delivery of meals on wheels and lunch club meals, operation of a laundry service in the Cumnock area, transportation of caretaking staff between operational units and the provision of ad hoc transport for individual service users at units across East Ayrshire.

3. SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS / RELIABILITY

- 3.1 Each of the vehicles used by the Community Alarms Service are different specifications and present a variety of limitations in their use arising from differing load capacities and variations in the numbers of passengers that each can accommodate.
- 3.2 The requirement to make emergency response visits across East Ayrshire requires a high degree of reliability from the vehicles in use.

4. REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The specification of the new vehicle includes a passenger capacity of up to four adults and a sufficient load carrying capacity for most equipment currently in use across the service, including lifting equipment and boiler maintenance equipment.
- 4.2 It is proposed that six 5-door vehicles meeting the new specification be leased. These vehicles would replace those vehicles whose leases are due to terminate on 19 December 2004, and would be deployed at the following establishments :-
- Ross Court (1)
 - Cessnock Gardens (1)
 - Community Alarms (2)
 - Home Care (2)
- 4.3 The leasing of the vehicles would enable the Department to provide an effective emergency response service utilising modern reliable vehicles with sufficient capacity for all necessary equipment and the flexibility of carrying home care workers or service users as passengers during emergency situations.
- 4.4 The allocation of similar vehicles to the older people's units would allow greater flexibility in the use of the vehicles providing a comfortable passenger carrying service for service users when required and transport for supplies and equipment.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The projected leasing costs would be £2,500 per vehicle per annum over three years. Annual Maintenance would be provide under the Service Level agreement with the Transport Services Section of the Development Services Department at an annual cost of £720 per vehicle.
- 5.2 The costs of the current leases will be transferred to meet the proposed lease agreements of 4 vehicles. Community Care will provide funding for two of the vehicles and savings will arise from replacing the 4x4 vehicles with a car derived van.

6. LEGAL/POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Vehicle acquisition will conform with the Council's Standing Orders for procurement.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Members of the Social Work Committee are requested to :-

- (i) approve the lease of the six vehicles detailed in section 4.2; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Executive Director (Educational and Social Services)
20 October 2004
Enc (0)

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

NIL

For further information on this report please contact:
Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support, at 01563 576090, or
Alex Fraser, Transport Manager, at 01563 578121

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: EUAN COUPERWHITE