

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE – 24 MAY 2001

TRANSPORT – LEASING OF REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

Report by the Director of Educational and Social Services

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To seek the approval of Committee 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 operates ten 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 four 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 the authority.

3 SERVICE ENHANCEMENTS / RELIABILITY

- 3.1** The vehicles used by the Community Alarms Service are of a variety of makes and present a variety of limitations in their use arising from differing load capacities and variations in the numbers of passengers each can carry.
- 3.2** The requirement to make emergency response visits across the authority requires a high degree of reliability from the vehicles in use. Older vehicles operated by the service have limited reliability and higher than average maintenance requirements.
- 3.3** The vehicles operated by the older people's units are small vans with good equipment capacity but limited usefulness in the carrying of passengers.

4 REPLACEMENT PROPOSALS

- 4.1** One new 5-door estate car was ordered under the Capital Programme for 2000-01 and delivered on 31 March 2001. 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 department including lifting equipment and boiler maintenance equipment.
- 4.2** It is proposed that an additional five 5-door estate cars meeting the new specification be leased. These vehicles would replace those vehicles which do not meet the current access needs of the service or which have limited reliability. The vehicles will be based at the following locations:
- Ross Court
 - Cessnock Gardens
 - Riverside Centre
 - Community Alarms, Affleck House [2]
- 4.3** The leasing of the new estate cars 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 £1,731 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 £677 per vehicle.
- 5.2** The annual maintenance costs reflect a saving of £928 per vehicle per annum based on current maintenance costs. Additional savings would be generated from the reduced requirement for vehicle hires arising from the operation of a more modern, reliable fleet.
- 5.3** The additional costs of the proposed lease agreements can be met from within the Department's existing transport budget.

6 LEGAL / POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Nil

7 RECOMMENDATIONS

Committee is requested to:

- (i) approve the lease of five 5-door estate cars; and
- (ii) otherwise note the contents of this report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services
ENC(0)
9 May 2001

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS - Nil

For further information on this report please contact Allan McDougall, Head of Resource Support, at 01563-576090.

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AGENDA