

Report of the Area Commander, Head of Operations Support

Fleet Procurement Strategy 2017/18

Purpose of report

1. To provide an annual update to the Policy and Resources Committee on the proposed fleet procurements in the forthcoming year, as requested in the Member led Fleet Task and Finish group (January 2016), and aligned to the budget setting process.
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Recommendation

It is recommended that the Policy and Resources Committee notes the contents of this report and approves the proposed outline procurements in 2017/18 and 2018/19, as detailed in Table 1 of the report.

Introduction and Background

2. The Policy and Resources Committee established a Task and Finish group to review the Fleet Strategy in January 2016. The Task and Finish Group, chaired by Councillor Phillips, met on 7 March 2016 and subsequently reported back to the Policy and Resources Committee on 16 June 2016. Included within their findings, which were approved at that meeting, was that *'further detail on the fleet provision be included in the yearly budget report to the Policy and Resources Committee'*.

New Fleet Strategy 2016 - 2021

3. A revised fleet strategy was approved by the Policy and Resources Committee on 21 September 2016 and has now been embedded within the Service. (See Appendix 1).
4. It was also recommended that within the annual update a two year forecast is given to enable flexibility to be maintained within the fleet strategy and to enable orders for vehicles to be placed over two financial years where necessary. This can be due to the complexity of the vehicle leading to extended build programmes, or where renewal dates for replacement vehicles is between two financial years.
5. It should be noted that every fleet procurement will undergo some form of review against the user specification to identify the best value product. In some cases this will be a full review (usually every 3-5 years), led by a user group. However, during intervening periods this will normally be a lower level fleet led functional review to ensure the product identified still meets the needs of the user, offers value for money, and is procured through an appropriate route.

Proposed Fleet Procurements 2017/18 & 2018/19

Table 1: Planned replacement vehicles for the next two years.

Vehicle Type	2017/18	2018/19	Comments
Vans white fleet	7	3	Note: 2 x vans have been extended by two further years
Cars, white fleet	16	9	1 new car is required in addition to existing fleet strategy
Minibus	1	1	Young Firefighters Association (YFA) and Training Centre
Fire Appliances**	5 + 2*	13 (by 2021)	*A pilot scheme for 2 smaller fire appliances is included within this year as part of the replacement programme
Command Support Unit	2*		* One existing large vehicle is being replaced with 2 smaller van sized vehicles
Water Carrier	Nil	3*	To be reviewed in 2017
Responding Officer Cars	8	18*	Due to replacement dates some of the 2018/19 batch may be purchased in the 2017/18 year
Trailers	6 + 1*	Nil	These trailers have been brought forward in the Fleet Strategy due to wear and tear * One additional new trailer is required at Hereford
Restricted Access Vehicles	2*	Nil	* not to be replaced in 2017/18/19, life extended by 3 years to 2020/21, amend fleet strategy

** Fire Appliances (Large) – Within the Fleet Strategy there is provision for 20 replacement fire engines within the next four years (2017 – 2021). These new fire engines are required within this time period to ensure the average age of the front line fire engine fleet is reduced to below fifteen years in line with the Fleet Strategy.

6. Exact vehicle costs are difficult to determine until the procurement process commences and the specification is tested against the market. The fleet capital programme provides appropriate funding for these proposed procurements and is agreed with the Treasurer and Deputy Chief fire Officer.
7. The Service has been purchasing the same chassis for some years now, it is therefore, appropriate that there is a full review of the chassis specification to inform any future procurement process. Until the chassis review is complete it is not possible to identify how many fire engines will be ordered in the year 2017/18, however, it is anticipated that an order will be placed within this year and that by the end of the following year (2018/19) at least 10 of the allocated provision of 20 fire engines will have been procured.

8. At each build programme the body-build of the fire engine (lockers, water tank and pump etc) is reviewed, the current specification is deemed fully fit for purpose. Additionally in 2016/17 (and in previous years), the body-build underwent a tender process within a procurement framework.

Conclusion/Summary

9. Due to the age of some vehicles, and in order to modernise the whole fleet, in line with the fleet strategy, there are a significant number of new vehicles planned within the next two years.
10. Additionally there are a number of vehicles whose renewals are close to the period between financial years, and in order to ensure the replacement is in place in due time, new vehicles may need to be ordered and purchased in the previous year.
11. This renewal programme may have minor changes and alterations to exact numbers of vehicles being replaced, of which appropriate flexibilities are provided for in the fleet strategy.
12. Funding for the replacement fleet vehicle programme is allocated through the capital programme and is reviewed by the Treasurer on a regular basis.

Corporate Considerations

Resource Implications (identify any financial, legal, property or human resources issues)	There are significant capital resource implications which the Treasurer has included in the capital programme.
Strategic Policy Links (identify how proposals link in with current priorities and policy framework and if they do not, identify any potential implications).	This paper is within the fleet strategy, which is aligned to the Services strategic objectives, "Our Strategy".
Risk Management / Health & Safety (identify any risks, the proposed control measures and risk evaluation scores).	This paper underpins the supporting of sound and appropriate H&S considerations in regard to providing a fit for purpose fleet of vehicles.
Consultation (identify any public or other consultation that has been carried out on this matter)	Undertaken as appropriate.
Equalities (has an Equalities Impact Assessment been completed? If not, why not?)	As appropriate

Supporting Information

Fleet Strategy 2016-2021

Background Papers

P&R paper 16th June 2016. 12 - Vehicle Fleet Capital Programme

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