

REPORT FOR DECISION - Road Sweeper

Recommendation

Officers recommend members:

- Instruct officer to arrange demonstration of sweepers that members be invited to attend.

Purpose of the Report.

To assist members in reaching decisions set out in the recommendations. This is not a decision to proceed with a sweeper but to allow for that decision at a later stage.

Background

Over the last 10 years Wiltshire Council have reduced the frequency of road sweeping within the town. This has led to many complaints from members of the public, with large accumulations of detritus leading to high volumes of weed growth.

At their January 2019 meeting, (Minute no DS/18/100) members directed officers to investigate how Warminster Town Council could improve the street sweeping service which is currently provided by Wiltshire Council and report back in due course, including a schedule and projected costs if appropriate.

Members subsequently agreed at their April 2019 (Minute no DS/18/125) that investigations into improved street sweeping should be subsumed into the wider discussion about the transfer of services from Wiltshire Council. After these discussions commenced, at the Devolved Services meeting 30th September 2019 (minute no DS/19/040) members asked officers to put together costs for a road sweeper.

Other Councils such as Chippenham, Trowbridge and Devizes have all decided to operate their own 'in house' road sweeper. Road sweeping is a very high profile, visible improvement. It is considered that the visual impact of infrequent road sweeping has a knock-on effect to how residents, visitors and business perceive the town. More frequent road sweeping may be seen as a very high profile, visible improvement. The councils mentioned above have linked the provision of a road sweeper with the taking on of further services and assets from Wiltshire Council as a clear signal of improved service provision.

Findings

A tender document was sent to seven companies (C.P. Davidson, Dawson rental sweepers, Econ Engineering Ltd, Go Plant Fleet Services, Scarab Sweepers, Hitachi Capital vehicle solutions Ltd, Riverside Truck Rental Ltd, Specialist fleet services Ltd, Hako Sweepers) asking for a cost for a 3.5 tonne sweeper on contract hire. Tenders to be submitted by the 28th October 2019.

The tender document specified a 3.5 tonne left hand drive machine with front and side brushes, gulley sucker, fitted pressure washer, roof beacon, LED in front grill and rear, rear beacon, radio with blue tooth for hands free kit or similar.

It also asked for one cost to include maintenance and one without maintenance.



(A copy of the full tender document is available at the Civic Centre)

Responses were received from 4 companies. Econ engineering replied saying they were unable to provide a vehicle of this specification. Tenders were received from Dawson Group Sweepers, Hako Sweepers and scarab sweepers.

