

Report of: G Wooldrige, City Works Business Unit

Title: Replacement of vehicle wash at City Works

Ward: Cowley Marsh

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Key Decision: No

Lead Member: Councillor Tanner

Scrutiny responsibility: Finance

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Executive Board agrees to:

Authorise £30,000 to be added to Capital Programme Budget to fund the replacement of the unserviceable Heavy Goods Vehicle wash at City Works depot;

and notes that this amount is within the annual £250,000 delegated to Executive Board to change the budget framework (as a supplementary budget approval), and will not therefore require Council approval.

1. For over 8 years City Works depot has had a 'drive through' vehicle wash for cleaning all vehicles within the Motor Transport fleet – ranging from large Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCVs) through to small vans and cars. In the latter part of 2004 the processor and control unit on the existing wash failed, rendering the whole wash unserviceable. Attempts have been made to source replacement parts but to no avail. The processor and control unit are no longer made, and newer ones are not compatible. Following visits from several suppliers, it has become apparent that the most cost effective method of getting the wash back in action is to replace the washing mechanism that exists above ground. The interceptors, recycling unit and hard standing can all be used with the new equipment, thus saving in the region of £25,000. Estimates to replace the above-ground mechanism are all around £30,000. **City Works will fund the annual cost of purchasing the wash from within existing budgets.** The new equipment will be under a one-year warranty with a further years' service included. A maintenance contract for following years will cost around £900 p.a. and is already covered in existing Cowley Marsh Depot budgets.

2. Using a drive through vehicle wash is considerably safer and cleaner (for the operator) than using a manual high-pressure hose system. Using a wash with an efficient water recycling system clearly demonstrates the Councils' commitment towards a cleaner, greener environment. As the water is recycled, the running costs of this wash are reduced, with only detergent and electricity needed. Current estimates from the suppliers all run out at around 50 pence per LGV wash, which includes de-griming and shampooing. Lead times for installation are 4-6 weeks from receipt of order.

3. The vehicle wash is a vital piece of equipment within Oxford City Council's operation and is key to the Councils' Vision of **Building Pride in our City**. We are actively working towards accreditation under ISO 14001 – improving our neighbour's environment, and replacing the faulty wash will go a long way towards achieving this. On Health and Safety grounds, Investors in People and ISO 9000, we have a duty to provide a clean and safe working environment for our staff. The City Councils' corporate and public image is suffering under the existing vehicle washing facilities. Similarly the longevity and serviceability of our fleet would be improved, as the vehicles are kept cleaner.

4. Using a drive through type wash is considerably safer and cleaner (for the operator) than using a manual type high-pressure hose, as we are temporarily. It is also considerably quicker and more efficient for OCC staff to use at a time more suited to their requirements. A drive through wash takes less than one quarter of the time it takes to clean a vehicle properly using the high pressure hose, thus leaving staff more time to focus on carrying out their core business.

5. This project has received a PIR score of 44, which is 'average'. The reason it has not scored higher is felt to be that it has no other source of funding i.e. all the funding will come from within the City Council.

THIS REPORT HAS BEEN SEEN AND APPROVED BY:

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Tanner

Strategic Director: (where appropriate)

Legal and Democratic Services:

Financial Management: