

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: **AUDIT COMMITTEE**

DATE: **WEDNESDAY, 18 DECEMBER 2013**

REPORT BY: **DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT**

SUBJECT: **FLEET MANAGEMENT**

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To update Members of the Audit Committee on the Council's current Vehicle Fleet Tracking Arrangements

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 At a meeting of the Audit Committee on 25th September 2013, the committee requested information on the Council vehicle tracking system, including the number of Council vehicles fitted with trackers and the cost of both fitting and maintaining them

2.02 Flintshire County Council currently operates a total Vehicle Fleet of approximately 400 vehicles. The annual cost of operating the Fleet is approximately £6.1m with the cost spread across the various services areas as follows

Community Services	Estate Caretakers etc	1%
Community Services	Property Services	10%
Community Services	Social Services	2%
Corporate Services	C'takers, ICT, Theatre etc	1%
Environment	Streetscene	81%
Environment	Other	2%
Lifelong Learning	C' Hall & Secondary	2%
Lifelong Learning	Leisure	1%

2.03 Whilst the vehicles operate within the individual services across the County, the procurement and maintenance of vehicles are centrally organised and managed by Fleet Services staff within Streetscene in the Environment Directorate.

2.04 The installation of tracking units into all Council vehicles was a key action from the Operational Implementation Plan within the Fleet Strategy approved by the Council's Executive in 2011. The Strategy recognised that effective management of this service critical Council Asset is essential both in terms of sustaining service delivery and in managing the obvious liabilities associated with operating a fleet of

this size and complexity.

- 2.05 An All Wales Framework Contract for the provision and maintenance of Vehicle Telematics was arranged by Denbighshire County Council in 2009 in order to assist Councils in monitoring their vehicle Fleets more effectively.
- 2.06 Following a robust procurement process, the Contract was awarded to a local company based in Wrexham – Track You Ltd who now provide tracking systems to a number of Councils across Wales, utilising the framework. As the current contract period has come to an end, discussions are currently ongoing with procurement colleagues in Denbighshire in respect of the mechanism to either extend the contract or to re-tender the work for a further fixed period
- 2.07 The framework allows the Council's own workshop mechanics to fit and replace the basic tracking units during regular vehicle inspection visits to the workshop. This reduces the cost of installing the system and reduces down time, whilst the units are being fitted to the vehicles. It also allows the units to be easily transferred from one vehicle to another once the lease or hire period has expired. Mobile units are also available and can be easily fitted to short term Hire Vehicles at minimal cost, if required.
- 2.08 The initial costs of purchasing the units together with the annual maintenance charges are recharged either directly to the user or through the General Fleet Recharge Mechanism. No specific budget has been allocated for the implementation of this project.
- 2.09 The reporting and monitoring system is web based and allows access to a wide range of prescribed users to view the movements of the Council Fleet. The information is 'real time' allowing Streetscene Contact Centre staff and Supervisors across the Authority the opportunity to locate the nearest vehicle to assist with specific service requests. Access to the information is password protected and user details are logged to ensure confidentiality and security of the data.
- 2.10 Whilst the system was originally intended to act as a mechanism to simply track vehicle movements, developments within the sector have moved at a great pace, allowing the Council to now utilise the system as a broad management tool to both manage the Fleet Asset more effectively and increasingly to manage the operations carried out by the vehicles and Council employees working from them.
- 2.11 In addition to recording the accurate location of vehicles, other details including driver behaviour are also recorded and can be used to defend the Council against any spurious third party claims that may be received.

- 2.12 Other information recorded by the system includes
- Speed and direction of travel
 - Notifications of vehicles leaving defined areas
 - Instances of harsh acceleration and braking – which can also be used to modify driver behaviour
 - Utilisation levels
 - Driver identification
 - Unauthorised usage and out of hours usage
- 2.13 The system also provides drivers with an emergency assistance call button (Panic Button) which notifies both the supplier (who supports a 24/7 cover for this service) and the Council - in the event of an emergency incident
- 2.14 The system has enabled the Fleet Service to review utilisation levels across the Fleet and provided the information base used within the on-going Fleet Review. It will also form the cornerstone of the proposed Demand Planning (Logistics) service delivery option currently being considered by the service This will help ensure the Council manages its Vehicle Fleet more effectively in future
- 2.15 The system is now fitted on 260 vehicles including Small/Light vans (across all Council service areas) and specialist LGV vehicles e.g. Refuse vehicles, Gully Emptiers, Gritters etc
- 2.16 The age of the current leased fleet and the intention to migrate to the hire model of ownership has influenced the roll-out of trackers to all vehicles. It is intended that all vehicles will be tracked following the implementation of the Fleet Review.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01 A Protocol for the use of tracking to monitor vehicle movements has been developed and will be presented for formal Cabinet for approval, on completion of the current Fleet Review (**Appendix 1**)

3.02 Current Developments and Extended Use

Track You have worked closely with WCBC and Flintshire to further develop the system in order to monitor, manage and direct the operations carried out from the vehicles. This includes the following functionality

- Waste Assisted Collections notification system. A presentation of this system and the proposed further developments was presented to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2013 and was well received and supported by Members

- Route notification and verification – notifies when a gritting route is uncompleted
- Driver notification of low recycling participation in an area or the presence of large quantities of side waste at a property.

3.03 **Proposed Future Developments**

Further developments are planned which will integrate the tracking system into the core reporting mechanism for the Fleet Service and reduce the required Administrative roles in preparing and grouping work instructions. This will include notification of service requests being sent directly to cab from the Streetscene Contact Centre

4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 That Members of the Committee note the current coverage and developments of the Fleet Tracking System.

5.00 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 Installation and maintenance - From within current Fleet budgets.

5.02 Tracked vehicles assist with the processing of third part insurance claims, in many cases allowing the Council to successfully defend the claim.

5.03 Better control of driving behaviour and route control will reduce fuel usage.

5.04 The latest framework costs for installing and maintaining the tracking system are as follows

Hardware	New price
TR7000 Vehicle Tracking Unit	£299.99
TR6000 Vehicle Tracking Unit	-
TR6000e Vehicle Tracking Unit	-
TR5000 Vehicle Tracking Unit	-
TR5110 Vehicle Tracking Unit< G-sensor & CANbus	£224.99
Remote panic button	£49.99
6 Button Gully box	£279.99
In cab button	£7.50
Mobile Data Terminals	£259.00
Waste and recycling Unit	£500.00
System access, monitoring service and warranty (Per month per vehicle)	£9.99

6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT

No impact

7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

7.01 The tracking system allows Service Managers to monitor the efficiency and utilisation of the fleet, which reduces vehicle mileage and the impact of the Fleet on the Environment

8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT

8.01 The use of the Tracking System to monitor Assisted Collections reduces the number of missed waste collections at the most vulnerable residents properties

9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

None

10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED

None

11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

11.01 A presentation of the developments of the tracking system was made to the Council's Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in 2013.

12.00 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Protocol for Vehicle Tracking

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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