

F&A – 29 October 2020

Agenda Item FA1539/20

Vehicle Replacement

Introduction

The Council's Land Rover vehicle has become a costly and relatively unreliable asset. This paper proposes bringing forward its replacement to 2021 from 2022. This Committee have previously discussed replacing the Land Rover at the meeting on September 12 2019. This paper is being presented now so Councillors can be informed of during the budget setting cycle.

Discussion

In the past 2 years the current vehicle has cost over £8000 in repairs, including a full engine replacement. It also suffers from regular faults and issues common with the model of the vehicle.

The Council is due to replace the vehicle, as part of its Asset Replacement Schedule, in 2022. However, I believe that the council would be better served by bringing this forward to 2021. This would be as the vehicle itself still retains good value having only completed less than 50,000 miles and having a new engine fitted in 2019. We have been quoted a part exchange price of £5500-£6000 for the Land Rover. I think that by selling the vehicle independently a higher price can be received.

I propose that the Land Rover be replaced with a single cab Toyota Hilux Active (<https://www.toyota.co.uk/new-cars/hilux/index/grade=ad296de8-4519-4ea3-9ab0-31496037361d%7Cbodytype=2dad3954-a6fb-4139-b671-fcc48886ca5f>). This vehicle is 4 wheel-drive and would be able to carry out all tasks required of the current vehicle. The Toyota only features 1 row of seating compared with two on the Land Rover. However, the rear seating is only used very rarely, and a better option would be more workspace and carrying capacity. With the purchase of the Council bicycle there are now other options for staff to use to travel around Croxley Green if needed.

The Toyota has space for Council branding, but this cost is not included in the Replacement Schedule. Once the vehicle has been purchased, we will look to install branding and a hardtop for the exposed carry section.

Recommendations:

That the Committee recommends to Council:

1. To bring forward the replacement of the works vehicle to 2021 – see attached schedule.
2. That the Council purchases a single cab Toyota Hilux Active Pick-Up on a Hire Purchase basis – see attached quote. (Note: quoted figures may slightly change but not dramatically)
3. That the initial £3000 cost be taken from the Council's general reserve.

James Townley
Grounds Maintenance Manager
October 2020