

Report to the Cabinet

Report reference: C/137/2005-06.

Date of meeting: 10 April 2006.



**Epping Forest
District Council**

Portfolio: Environmental Protection.

Subject: District Abandoned Vehicles Contract.

Officer contact for further information: David Marsh (01992 – 564889).

Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 – 56 4470).

Recommendations:

That the current contract with Redcorns to investigate and remove abandoned vehicles be extended by a further two years until May 2008.

Report.

1. The Council has a statutory obligation to investigate and remove abandoned vehicles, which include all cars, motorcycles, commercial vehicles and caravans. Essex County Council as the Waste Disposal Authority has agreed that we should discharge their disposal function through a comprehensive contract and reimburses us for the costs.
2. The current contract was let under competitive tendering in May 2002 to Redcorns Ltd for four years with the option to extend for another two years.
3. Redcorns have completed the contractual requirements without serious problems and they currently operate similar contracts for our neighbour Broxbourne Council as well as a number of London Boroughs. They have invested considerable sums to equip themselves to ensure that they comply with the requirements of the End of Life Vehicles Directive (EOL) to allow them to offer a service from collection to complete disposal. They have generally performed very well with performance meeting the contractual requirements.
4. The provision of this service is important to keep our roads clear of abandoned vehicles which can also be dangerous, used for storage/illegal disposal of hazardous waste and used for a variety of other anti social behaviour. The removal of abandoned vehicles is also one of the Council's high profile best value performance indicators.
5. Redcorns have offered to extend the current contract on the same terms and conditions as the existing, with cost increases limited to inflation only. Investigations with other authorities have shown that our costs are generally lower and it is probable that a tendering exercise at this time would result in increased costs.

Statement in support of recommended action:

6. There are a number of reasons to extend the existing contract and these are shown below:
 - (a) a new contract is very likely to result in higher charges;
 - (b) EOL vehicle legislation can be fully complied with at no additional cost;
 - (c) computerised issue of Certificates of Destruction as required by Essex County

Council as the Waste Disposal authority;

(d) over 90% of all vehicles removed within the BVPI time period of 24 hours from being legally able to remove;

(e) the ability to remove any vehicles including HGV's and those in difficult locations; and

(f) no fee for vehicles that are not found for removal after having been stickered.

Options considered and rejected:

7. The options considered and rejected are:

(a) tender a new contract; and

(b) appoint Essex County Council's contractor to undertake the work.

8. The reasons for rejecting a tender process are set out in the main body of the report. A tender exercise is very likely to result in increased costs, and given that the present service provided by Redcorns is very good, and their offer to retain contract costs at present levels, an expensive re-tendering exercise at this time cannot be supported.

9. There are a number of disadvantages with opting to use the County Council's contractor. In addition to a new contract for collection of abandoned vehicles there would be:

(a) the need to provide a storage facility for the vehicles prior to collection by the County Council's contractor; and

(b) additional collection costs from Essex County Council's contractor for collecting from the storage facility for transportation to their disposal site.

Consultation undertaken:

10. Officers, Essex County Council and Existing Abandoned Vehicle Contractor.

Resource implications:

Budget provision: Existing.

Personnel: Nil.

Land: Nil.

Community Plan/BVPP reference: Provision of a statutory Abandoned Vehicle service.

Relevant statutory powers: The Refuse Disposal amenity Act 1978, Removal & Disposal Regulations 1986, Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Background papers: None.

Environmental/Human Rights Act/Crime and Disorder Act Implications: Ability to deal effectively with burnt out & abandoned vehicles.

Key Decision reference (if required): N/A.