

29 JULY 1999

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

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1. Purpose

- 1.1 To seek Committee approval to extend the current vehicle maintenance contract with Brian Currie Ltd, and the transfer of the maintenance of three vehicles from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Service to Synergy.

2. Summary

- 2.1 An extension of the current arrangements with Brian Currie and the transfer of the maintenance of three other vehicles are considered to be the most cost-effective way of providing vehicle maintenance to the Council's fleet that transferred under Local Government reorganisation.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the existing vehicle maintenance contract with Brian Currie Ltd be extended for two years from 1 October 1999 until 30 September 2001, in accordance with the extension option in the original contract documentation.
- 3.2 That approval be given to the transfer of the maintenance of three other vehicles from the Fire Service to Synergy.

4. **Background**

- 4.1 Buckinghamshire County Council let a vehicle maintenance contract with Brian Currie Ltd, for a five-year period starting on 1 October 1994. The contract included an option of a two-year extension, which Brian Currie have now requested. The value of the contract for Milton Keynes is estimated to be £80-85,000 per annum. The majority of the vehicles maintained under this contract are Education and Social Services vehicles.
- 4.2 Brian Currie Ltd have operated the contract successfully, and are considered to be financially sound, and are located in Bleak Hall, which makes control and monitoring of the arrangements straightforward. Only one price increase of 3% on the original contract pricing has been requested, and granted, to Brian Currie since the start of the contract in 1994.
- 4.3 Brian Currie operate a 24-hour operation, and the contract stipulates a 30 minute response time to call-outs. They also have the DAF Aid Agency for European breakdown cover, that is used by schools on foreign trips.
- 4.4 At the same time as the Brian Currie vehicle maintenance contract was let in October 1994, Buckinghamshire County Council also let a smaller contract to Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service for the maintenance of vehicles. At the time of Local Government Reorganisation in 1997, the number of vehicles in the Milton Keynes area that transferred on the contract was three. The value of the contract is £1700 per annum. No request for a contractual extension has been received from Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority.
- 4.5 The vehicles on this contract have to be taken to Aylesbury for servicing and maintenance. It is therefore proposed that these three vehicles should transfer into Synergy's fleet workshop at Bleak Hall, when the existing contract ends on 30 September 1999.

5. **Issues and Choices**

- 5.1 The existing vehicle maintenance arrangements with Brian Currie have operated successfully and cost-effectively and a two-year contract extension will provide continuity of this service.
- 5.2 The transfer of the three vehicles at the end of the contract with the Fire Authority into the Synergy's fleet workshop will bring operational benefits.
- 5.3 Synergy currently have a vehicle and plant maintenance contract that expires in September 2003, and it should be possible to amalgamate these two contracts at that time, to achieve savings through economies of scale. For the two years 2001-03, a transitional arrangement will have to be tendered.

6. **Implications**

6.1 Environmental

None.

6.2 Equalities

None.

6.3 Financial

None.

6.4 Legal

None.

6.5 Staff and Accommodation

None.

7. **Conclusions**

7.1 The Committee is asked to approve the extension of the current vehicle maintenance contract with Brian Currie for a period of two years from 1 October 1999.

Background Papers: Contract documentation.