



Purchase of vehicles

Date of meeting 9 December 2016

Date of report 21 November 2016

Report by Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

1. Object of report

To recommend the Partnership approves the purchase of three buses, in line with SPT's bus fleet replacement strategy.

2. Background

Some years ago, SPT embarked upon an initiative in which buses were purchased for use on local bus service contracts and supplied to the successful tenderers on a full repairing lease basis.

This initiative, as well as having promoted the introduction to the market of smaller, more fuel efficient vehicles, significantly reduced the contract costs and offered greater opportunities for smaller companies to compete by relieving them of the potential burden of the capital outlays involved in buying any buses necessary to win tendering exercises.

The buses acquired have also markedly improved the overall profile of the bus fleet in the SPT area, being as they are low-emission and fully accessible.

Members will be aware that SPT has adopted a bus fleet replacement strategy, designed to maintain the quality and reliability of the fleet, while doing so in a manner which allows prudent management of the costs involved.

The criteria agreed by the Partnership set out that vehicles will be considered for replacement at 7 years or 250,000 miles, whichever milestone is reached first.

3. Outline of proposals

Vehicle records indicate that three vehicles currently engaged on bus service contracts are approaching the 250,000 miles' point and, taking account of lead times for delivery, steps must be taken now to source replacements.

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4. Partnership action

The Partnership is recommended to agree to the award of a contract to Optare Group Ltd via SPT's vehicle purchasing framework for the supply of three Optare Solo buses at an approximate cost of £355,000.

5. Consequences

Policy consequences: *In line with Regional Transport Strategy.*

Legal consequences: *Vehicles will be purchased in accordance with the framework terms and conditions and leased to operators in accordance with SPT's bus lease agreement.*

Financial consequences: *The purchase of three vehicles at an approximate cost of £355,000 can be contained within the 2016/17 capital budget for the Purchase of Buses and Operational Vehicles.*

Personnel consequences: *None.*

Equalities consequences: *Maintains socially necessary services.*

Risk consequences: *None.*

Eric Stewart
Assistant Chief Executive (Operations)

Gordon MacLennan
Chief Executive

for further information, please contact Alex Scott, Bus Services Manager, ext 3388