

The Vehicle Maintenance and Fleet Management function plays a key role in enabling the Council's amenity services to perform well and to a high standard.

The function aims to maintain its low risk status with VOSA, the government agency for regulation and inspected service, by delivering high standards of maintenance within the Council's health and safety framework.

The function aims to continually improve its standards delivered by highly trained and well equipped technicians and support staff and systems. This requires a balance between capital investment in the fleet, including the upgrading of systems, and driving down the running costs of the function.

Reduce costs, taking a whole-of-life perspective:

- Adopt as on-going policy the principle of outright capital purchase of equipment, as the lowest cost option currently available to the Council
- extend the life of vehicles where economically advantageous: RCVs from 6 to 7 years and also road sweepers from 6 to 7 years
- Increase team skill set: increasing in-house maintenance capability for specialist equipment to reduce reliance on costly external support; improve diagnostic capabilities and client management
- Improve value-based purchasing decisions: review buying consortiums. buying more robust vehicles; smarter use of warranties, refurbished parts and re-moulds (tyres, etc.) having regard to safety thresholds
- Improve contract terms from suppliers: negotiation of discounts, stockholding and parts supply arrangements
- Improve management information systems to support whole-of-life performance and cost appraisals. The purchase of a new Fleet Management System is on the 2011/12 capital programme which will enable significant improvements in evidence based decision making.

Increase income by increasing the client base and the utilisation of the MOT bay, recognising that the Council does not want to be seen as undermining local businesses in the same market:

- Promote services such as MOTs & servicing to other public sector bodies
- Improved utilisation of the MOT bay, especially in the winter months, by attracting new clients
- Increase re-sale return: improve the rate of return at auction for the re-sale of the Council's vehicles and equipment.

Continue adding value:

- Reduce the carbon footprint: investing in improved fuel usage and delivery systems & wash down systems
- Increase staffing stability and investing in the younger generation: Reduce the need for agency, servicing support staff from external companies and improve succession planning by participating in the Council's Apprenticeship Scheme
- Continue providing a caretaking role for Thorpe Lane depot: the Vehicle Maintenance team manages activities within the overall Thorpe Lane depot such as unloading delivery vehicles & operating the fork lift truck so the Council does not need to invest in a security, storeman/yard person arrangement.