

SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

Leader of Council:
Cllr. A Barnes

Signature: Cllr. A Barnes

Chair of Overview and Scrutiny:
Cllr A Robertson

Signature: Cllr A Robertson

Decision Taker:
Head of Finance & Property Services

Signature: Philip Seddon

Details of Decision and Reasoning:

Clean Bus Technology Fund 2015

Purpose of the Report:

To gain Member approval for:

- the acceptance of a Department for Transport (DfT) grant of up to £485,600 for clean bus technology and
- the agreement to enter into a contractual arrangement for the provision clean bus technology equivalent to the grant available.

NB - This matter was omitted from the Council's capital budget plans as approved by Council in February 2016 and is financially cost neutral.

Background

In October 2015 officers were made aware of the DfT's Clean Bus Technology Fund 2015. The objective of the fund is to assist in the conversion of 35 bus engines in order to reduce oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions. Officers therefore prepared an application on behalf of Rossendale Transport Ltd (Rosso) and Pilkingtons. Rossendale has two air quality action plans in place being:

- Manchester Road, Haslingden
- Bacup Road, Rawtenstall.

The reduction of NOx emissions will assist in the delivery of these plans. In addition, the conversion allows for the future use of existing vehicles on Greater Manchester contracts when emission limits will be a future criteria of successful award.

The successful grant award was made in December 2015 but was omitted from budget papers in error. Pilkingtons have since withdrew from the process which is likely to entail a reduction in the final expenditure and return of part of the grant - the DfT have been informed.

The award of a contract is subject to an open tender and OJEU process which ends at the end of April to be followed by an evaluation involving Council Officers and Executive Directors and Managers of Rosso

Reason for urgency:

Tenders will be returned in the last week of April 2016 and evaluations made in early May. Full Council is not until 8th June 2016. Approval to contract is therefore required in order to:

- facilitate the conversion of engines as expediently as possible – a potential installation delay of 2.5 months is not reasonable.
- convert as many engines as possible during Rosso's least busy summer months
- meet the DfT's expectations of a conversion programme as speedily as possible without undue delay

Decision to be taken by:

Philip Seddon

Documents to be considered by the decision taker:

DfT grant application, award letter, DfT correspondence, Council's tender document.

Implications:

Financial and reputational

Status:

For Publication

Date:

29/04/2016

NOTES

A Key Decision is defined as one that either:

- a) is, in value worth more than £100,000, or
 - b) has a **significant impact** because (for example) it either:
 - (i) affects individuals or organisations outside the Borough; or
 - (ii) will have a long term (more than 5 years) or permanent effect on the council or the borough.
1. Status - Is the issue an open and public matter or is it a private and excluded matter as described in Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972. If it is an open matter it is for publication. If it is a private matter it is not for publication and you state the reason why and the appropriate paragraph number of Schedule 12A.
 2. Implications – List any financial staffing and legal implications and remember to consult with legal, human resources and finance. Also consider implications such as LA21 Environment, Human Rights Act 1998. Equal opportunities, Community Safety, IT, Land and Property and Partnership Working.
 3. When the decision has been made and the form signed by the decision taker and the portfolio holder the form should be sent to the Committee Services Manager.