

Central Transport Services – Overview and update

Purpose of Report

1. To offer Members an update on Central Transport Services (CTS) and to identify opportunities for ongoing monitoring and engagement with the service.

Structure of the Papers

2. Attached to this report to support Members preparation are:
Appendix 1: CTS update presentation.

Background

3. The Committee's Terms of Reference confer responsibility for scrutiny of CTS. This is an opportunity for Members to receive an update on the service and to discuss some of the opportunities and challenges facing CTS.
4. CTS is based within the Resources Directorate and the service is responsible for the management and maintenance of the Council's corporate fleet vehicles, ensuring the necessary vehicle support to enable all directorates within the Council to deliver effective and responsive services in a safe and compliant manner.

Context

5. To set the context, the 2023-26 Corporate Plan includes targets, steps and KPI's relevant to the Programme for Improvement for CTS. The plan aims to support the transition to clean vehicles by implementing a Fleet Replacement Strategy prioritising interventions that result in the largest carbon reduction; and to review

the Council's fleet carbon cost per directorate to identify key themes to help reduce the carbon figure. In addition, to set out an electric vehicle infrastructure road map by March 2024 to provide a strategy for public and private sector investment. The KPI for measuring achievement is *the number of Council vehicles which are electric*, with a target of 100.

5. In December 2022, the Council commissioned Logistics UK, one of the biggest trade associations in the UK, to carry out a review of the arrangements in place to ensure compliance with its Operator's License. In March 2023 the same company was commissioned to carry out an audit of workshop arrangements at both Coleridge Road and Lamby Way.
6. In May 2023 an Internal Audit Review of CTS was assessed as 'Unsatisfactory' with recommendations for improvement. Taking the recommendations of the internal audit review, together with the recommendations of the two Logistics UK reviews, a Programme for Improvement was developed for CTS.
7. At the meeting Members will be provided with an update on progress made against the actions contained within the Programme for Improvement.

Scope of the Scrutiny

8. This scrutiny aims to provide members with an overview of CTS, including an update on progress made with the Programme for Improvement. It will also highlight key strategic priorities for the service over the next twelve months.
9. Members may wish to consider whether there are any issues identified as part of the update that should inform the ongoing work programme of this scrutiny committee.

Way Forward

10. To support this scrutiny, in attendance will be Councillor Caro Wild, Cabinet Member for Climate Change; Chris Lee, Corporate Director Resources and Dean Thomas, Operational Manager for CTS & Operational Finance who will take the Committee through a presentation. Members will be invited to ask questions and identify opportunities for ongoing monitoring and engagement with the service.

Legal Implications

11. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review, and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters, there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendation

13. The Committee is recommended to:
- i. Note the update provided and progress to date in Central Transport Services.

- ii. Consider whether it wishes to offer comments, observations, or recommendations for the Cabinet Members consideration; and
- iii. Consider whether there are any issues identified as part of the update that should inform the ongoing work programme of this scrutiny committee.

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