

Bus Shelters in Exeter

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Please note that the following recommendation is subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Committee notes the following report.

1. Background/introduction

This report provides an overview of the provision of bus shelters in Exeter, which are provided by Clearchannel at no cost to Devon County Council or Exeter City Council. The ongoing costs of provision and maintenance are covered by the sale of advertising.

2. Current Agreement

The provision of bus shelters within the Exeter City area forms part of a joint agreement between Clearchannel, the County Council and the City Council.

This arrangement started on 1 May 2012 following a procurement process during 2011 and will last for twenty years. It replaced the previous agreement with Clearchannel/Adshel which expired at the end of April 2012.

Three companies expressed an interest in the contract and two responses were received. All the interested companies took the opportunity to discuss the aspirations contained in the tender documents prior to bidding. From these discussions it became apparent that the requirement that there be no advertising on shelters in the City Centre (High Street and Sidwell Street) had significantly reduced the amount of advertising revenue achievable and the consequent benefits it would be possible to deliver through the contract.

New or replacement shelters do not require planning permission, but the introduction of illuminated advertising at a new location requires consent from the City Council under the Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations.

The present contract provides:

- 188 bus shelters - all existing shelters are being replaced – the target is that all will be replaced within the first five years of the contract.
- Shelters are inspected on a daily basis for graffiti or damage.
- Shelters are cleaned every week.
- A call-out system for damage or emergencies.
- A 24 hour number to report damage – 0800 731 3699
- From 2017 two additional shelters per year will be provided at no cost to the Councils.

3. Replacement of Shelters

It normally takes approximately one week to replace an existing shelter with a new one.

The process is:

- Power to the old shelter is disconnected.
- The old shelter is removed.
- The pavement is excavated to install the new supporting framework.
- The new framework is allowed to fully set.
- The new shelter is erected and pavement made good.
- Power is re-connected to the new shelter.

The process requires a lorry-mounted crane for the dismantling and construction phases. The installation of the framework can encounter difficulties where other services are located close to the pavement surface and this has resulted in delays at a number of locations.

Where a shelter is damaged in an accident the timescale for repair or replacement is dependent on how quickly the insurance payment is made and the requirement to order a replacement shelter. In some locations embargoes or restrictions on highway works may also impact on the timescale. Where a shelter has been struck by a bus on more than one occasion a review to try and avoid a repetition will be carried out. This will examine any opportunities for slightly moving or reorienting the shelter to reduce the risk.

4. New Shelters

The contract provides two additional shelter locations per year from 2017, at no cost to the Authorities. The present list of possible sites already exceeds 70 locations, so it will not be possible to meet all requests. The intention is to prioritise locations based on level of passenger use and frequency of service. Additional shelters can be provided if the installation and maintenance costs can be fully met. There is no budget available from the County Council or City Council for this, so any additional shelters would be dependent on the availability of external funding.

5. Options/Alternatives

A competitive tender process was issued in 2011 for a 20 year period from May 2012. Officers engaged with the market at that time.

6. Consultations/Representations/Technical Data

Not applicable.

7. Financial Considerations

None, with no financial consideration for DCC or ECC.

8. Environmental Impact Considerations

The Authority has a responsibility to ensure that shelters are disposed of in an environmentally friendly manner when they are dismantled.

All dismantled shelters are transported to Clearchannel's Central Depot. Materials from the dismantled shelters are then inspected and utilised in the following ways:

- The metal infrastructure of the shelter is inspected and assessed. Re-furbished shelters are produced from the salvaged materials. For every four dismantled shelters they are able to produce approximately one re-furbished shelter. Re-furbished shelters are then offered to customers at discounted prices.

- Parts are salvaged and cleaned to provide maintenance stock which is distributed nationally.
- 100% of fluorescent tubes and lamps are recycled.
- Electrical equipment is recycled where fit for purpose.
- Glass is recycled and used as aggregate.
- Metals beyond use are re-cycled.

9. Equality Considerations

Wherever possible the Department for Transport’s “Inclusive Mobility” guidelines are adopted. In some locations restricted pavement width may make it impossible to fully comply. Full details of the guidelines are available at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/3695/inclusive-mobility.pdf

10. Legal Considerations

There are no specific legal considerations.

11. Risk Management Considerations

This policy/proposal has been assessed and all necessary safeguards or action have been taken/included to safeguard the Council's position.

12. Public Health Impact

None.

13. Summary/Conclusions/Reasons for Recommendations

It is recommended that this report be noted.

Dave Black
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

Electoral Divisions: All in Exeter

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

Contact for enquiries: Damien Jones

Room No: Matford Lane Offices

Tel No: 01392 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Ref.
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None

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