

The Highland Council
Community Services Committee
18 August 2016

Agenda Item	9
Report No	COM 28/16

Telematics for the Light Fleet

Report by Director of Community Services

Summary

This report outlines plans for the implementation of vehicle telematics across the light fleet by 31 March 2017.

1. Background

1.1 Vehicle telematics is an electronic system that enables reporting on a number of aspects of vehicle use. This can include:

- vehicle utilisation;
- vehicle productivity;
- vehicles used outwith standard hours;
- speeding; and
- route planning.

1.2 Telematics can bring many business benefits as well as aiding our compliance with Operator Licence requirements:

- improvement in vehicle utilisation, routing and productivity;
- reduction in costs to run and maintain the fleet of vehicles;
- increased compliance with UK and European Legislation, particularly in the heavy fleet;
- health and safety improvements; and
- reports on fleet usage which can be used to improve how services are delivered.

2. Current Situation

2.1 In 2015 Telematics was installed across the Council's heavy fleet. This includes snow ploughs, gritters, bin lorries i.e. everything above 3.5 tonnes. This covers approximately 250 vehicles.

2.2 At that time the approach was to install telematics in to the leased fleet as new vehicles were ordered and this was to be included in the vehicle specification. This approach would take approximately five years.

2.3 The recent internal audit report on the Administration of Fuel has highlighted the need to bring the installation programme forward.

3. Rollout to Light Fleet

- 3.1 The telematics system used in the heavy fleet is suitable to be used in the light fleet.
- 3.2 The requirement for leased vehicles to have the telematics system installed will now form part of the vehicle specification and will be installed as standard.
- 3.3 Approximately 150 vans are due for replacement during 2016/17 and will have this installed at the pre-delivery stage. The remaining 350 vehicles will have it installed retrospectively.
- 3.4 The timescale for completion is March 2017. This will also provide adequate time for staff engagement and awareness sessions to take place.

4. Staff Engagement

- 4.1 It must be acknowledged that some drivers may have concerns about such a system. Telematics is already in operation and a familiar system to drivers of heavy vehicles.
- 4.2 The Service intends to carry out consultation with staff in accordance with Highland Council's Change Management Processes to ensure staff concerns are heard and acknowledged.
- 4.3 A draft policy was tabled at the Community Services Trade Unions' meeting on 8 July 2016. The objectives are stated as:
 - to explain how Telematics monitors the Highland Council fleet of vehicles, inclusive of heavy, light, utility vehicles and minibuses;
 - to reassure staff that telematics monitors vehicle activities rather than staff activities; and
 - to explain how the data collated will be used to improve vehicle productivity and efficiency, and maximise the use of the Council's resources.
- 4.4 It further reassures drivers that the data collected will be used to improve vehicle productivity and that it is not a time management system.
- 4.5 It must also be recognised that the biggest saving will be from changing driver behaviour, especially in relation to rapid acceleration, speeding, heavy braking and excessive idling and the information obtained from the system will be used to improve driver techniques.
- 4.6 Once feedback has been received from the TUs we will seek approval for the Policy in the usual manner.
- 4.7 Awareness and training sessions are planned to take place prior to the formal implementation and application of the system. This will include showing drivers what information will be available to managers to help improve route planning, fuel consumption and vehicle utilisation.

5. Implications

5.1 Resource

There are cost implications for the Council in terms of increased fleet hire but this will be offset by reduced fuel consumption leading as a result to improved vehicle utilisation.

5.2 Legal

The introduction of telematics will enable the Council to ensure we are compliant with EU and UK driver legislation.

5.3 Climate Change/Carbon Clever

Telematics will enable the Council to make best use of its fleet through effective routing and driver behaviour thus impacting positively on our Climate Change/Carbon Clever targets.

5.4 There are no other known equality, risk, rural or Gaelic implications.

Recommendation

Members are invited to note that, following the recent audit inspection on fuel procurement, telematics will be installed in the light fleet by the end of March 2017.

Designation: Head of Performance and Resources

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