

CABINET MEMBER DECISION



SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL

Decision:

That approval is granted to purchase 12 JC Decaux bus shelters located within the bus stations in Grantham and Stamford at a nominal total cost of £1.

(1) **Details of Decision**

To seek approval to purchase the JC Decaux bus shelters currently situated in the Grantham and Stamford Bus Stations.

(2) **Considerations/Evidence**

Across South Kesteven a suite of forty-eight bus shelters was installed in 2000 by JC Decaux. The shelters which are predominantly located in Grantham and Stamford are currently owned and maintained by JC Decaux.

Of the forty-eight shelters:

- 6 are located in Grantham Bus Station
- 34 are located in the Grantham area along bus routes
- 6 are located in Stamford Bus Station
- 2 are located in the Stamford area along bus routes

The agreement under which these shelters are maintained comes to an end on 31st December 2020.

JC Decaux has advised that the shelters are no longer commercially viable from their perspective in terms of advertising sales and the company does not wish to continue beyond the contract expiration date. They have indicated their intention to remove all of the shelters unless an agreement can be reached with the Council to purchase.

JC Decaux has offered the 48 shelters for purchase by the Council. The purchase of the shelters would also mean that the costs of the maintenance regime and cleaning would pass to the Council.

Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) has advised, based on their own cleaning contracts in place on their shelters, an estimate of £100 per shelter per annum including one annual jet wash. It is anticipated that the Street Cleansing team would undertake this work or that work orders would be

raised for Environment SK to provide this service.

Maintenance inspections are currently carried out every two weeks. This is a visual inspection which coincides with the replacement of advertising material. More formal checks are undertaken quarterly. These include checking the stability of the structure, seating, glass, lights and ensuring the drainage is functioning correctly. These inspections are carried out by fully trained staff. Parts such as glass panels are not currently routinely changed, only when they are damaged. The models of the shelters are of JC Decaux design and the company is the sole supplier of off the shelf replacement parts.

LCC has mapped the locations of the shelters in question by utilising National Public Transport Access Nodes (NaPTAN) and the Association of Transport Officers (ATCO) location identifier codes. LCC has however been unable to obtain data regarding the use of the shelters across both towns. Centerbus is the key operator within Grantham but have not been able to supply any information, despite repeated requests from LCC.

It must be noted that the maps of locations do not detail the number of service at each shelter, some shelters are opposite each other on the road side but the bus routes do not always operate in both directions, thus some shelters may not be utilised at all.

Of the 40 shelters in Grantham, 24 have an additional pole with timetables attached, positioned to the side of the shelter. None of the 8 shelters in Stamford have any additional infrastructure. If the shelters are removed, then there would be no need to install any "bus stop" location signage at the 24 locations in Grantham, however, all shelters positioned in the bus station would need to be replaced with some form of structure. All 8 locations in Stamford would need some form of signage/structure.

All shelters are designed to offer the ability to carry advertising, some of which have an electricity supply which allows for the advertising panels to be illuminated.

Discussions have taken place with LCC to consider the option for it to purchase the thirty-six shelters along the bus routes with the District Council taking responsibility for the shelters located in the bus stations in Grantham and Stamford. Whilst no decision has been reached with LCC, to date discussions have been positive and indications are that LCC may move forward with this proposal. Should LCC decide to not carry on with this purchase, JC Decaux are to remove the 36 shelters and make good the ground leaving the remaining 12 shelters at Grantham and Stamford bus stations for the District Council.

Officers of the District Council have negotiated with JC Decaux for the twelve shelters in Grantham and Stamford Bus Stations to be offered to South Kesteven District Council at a nominal total cost of £1. Once the agreement

goes ahead the District Council would take over the responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of these shelters.

(3) Reasons for Decision:

The option to retain the shelters in the bus station is more cost effective than replacing these with new shelters. The opportunity to utilise these shelters to promote District Council commercial/paid for service and other key messages will also be beneficial.

Conflicts of Interest

(Any conflict of interest declared by any other Cabinet Member consulted in relation to the decision to be recorded).

None

Dispensations

(Any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer in respect of any declared conflict of interest to be noted).

None

Decision taken by:

Name: Councillor Dr Peter Moseley
Cabinet Member for Commercial and Operations

Date of Decision: 07 December 2020

Date of Publication of Record of Decision: 10 December 2020

Date decision effective (i.e. 5 days after the date of publication of record of decision unless subject to call-in by the Chairman of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee or any 5 members of the Council from any political groups):

18 December 2020