

**TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET & POLICY COMMITTEE**

**2nd DECEMBER 2025
EQUIPMENT RESERVE – VEHICLE/PLANT
REPLACEMENT REPORT**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee and Council with an opportunity to consider the replacement of two of the Council's fleet of commercial vehicles over the course of the 2025-2026 and 2026 2027 financial years respectively, specifically the 2007 Iveco Daily 50C15 Cherry Picker and at a later stage the 2006 New Holland TCE55 compact utility tractor. Both vehicles have reached an age where the ongoing costs required to keep the vehicles road worthy and safe exceeds the market value of the vehicle both in terms of vehicular and mechanical costs.

2. CORPORATE POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Under the 2025-2026 Commercial and Community Service Plan the provision for a replacement Cherry Picker and Tractor is referenced under project 9 and linked to Council priorities En2, EN7, EC4 and EC6. A previous report was considered by Committee and Council in 2022 whereby recommendations were put forward to review the Works Departments fleet of vehicles and future provision requirements.

3. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The commercial vehicle fleet provides a core supporting function to the delivery of Council services and the associated delivery of organisational goals and objectives, as well provide additional avenues of commercial income (plant hire). The Town Council is under an obligation to adequately insure, manage and maintain the fleet of vehicles under its ownership. The depletion of the reserve will, in effect be to zero until yearly replenishment occurs over the next 5 years.

4. RESOURCE ISSUES

The cost implications associated with the replacement vehicles are detailed within the report. The Committee will be aware that the Council operates a vehicle replacement reserve fund which is designated as 'equipment replacement' (currently in

the sum of £78,314). This earmarked reserve provides the funding source for replacement Council vehicles/main plant (eg tractor).

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

The option of acquiring a new electric or hybrid vehicle mounted cherry picker & compact utility tractor has been considered however it is not recommended to Committee and Council to review on the basis of affordability in terms of higher initial purchase costs and the additional costs associated with the installation of charging infrastructure, as well as practicalities in terms of operational limitations (battery range and charging time, as well as less power).

6. COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

This report has been developed by researching market options and viabilities.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Works Manager recommends to Committee and Council it agree:

- a) The purchase of a used vehicle mounted cherry picker at not more than the budget specified below and therefore agree to the disposal of the current asset; a 2007 Iveco Daily 50C15 vehicle mounted cherry picker for best price
- b) Subject to the availability of funds, the purchase of a new compact utility tractor and therefore agree to the disposal of the current asset; a 2006 New Holland TCE55 compact utility tractor for best price.

1. BACKGROUND AND CURRENT SITUATION

- 1.1 The Committee will be aware the Works Department has an ageing fleet of commercial vehicles. Project 9 in the 2025-2026 Commercial and Community Service Plan referenced the provision for a replacement Cherry Picker and Tractor.
- 1.2 Purchased in 2012 at a cost of £10,000, the 2007 Iveco Daily 50C15 vehicle mounted cherry picker has proven to be a significant asset to the Town Council due to the safety, efficiency, and versatility it provides when working at heights.
- 1.3 The vehicle mounted cherry picker provides a stable platform to work from, reducing the requirement to work

with ladders and tower scaffolding where there are associated risks of falls. By having an in house MEWP (Mobile Elevated Work Platform - as opposed to plant hire) the scope of work the Town Council are able to commit to and achieve has been widened. In addition, the benefits of a vehicle mounted cherry picker, in comparison to a spider lift, or trailer-mounted platform includes the use of an additional vehicle, and the ability to carry tools and materials.

- 1.4 The Works Department team have all received the required training in order to drive the 5.2KG vehicle and operate the lifting equipment further increasing efficiency.
- 1.5 The report includes the future planning for the provision to replace the compact utility tractor. The current tractor, a 2006 New Holland TCE55 was purchased new in 2006 at a cost of £ 17,750 (not including accessories).
- 1.6 Similarly to the vehicle mounted cherry picker, the tractor too provides considerable benefits, supporting an increase in productivity and versatility of the Works Department. Manoeuvrability, ease of use and versatility from the various attachments result in a range of ground and property maintenance tasks being able to be undertaken . Its compact size and light weight design minimise damage to ground conditions and provides ease of storage whilst the relative low operational costs make this item of equipment cost effective.

2. OPTIONS & ANALYSIS

- 2.1 To reflect on costs associated with the cherry picker and provide context, since 2019 the Council has spent approximately £12,000 on vehicular and mechanical maintenance and repairs. Looking ahead, the cherry picker requires considerable work to the self levelling mechanism, the vehicle bodywork, a suspected engine fault, as well as other more minor repairs which relate to the general deterioration of the elevated platform device. Having assessed the vehicle and compared the estimated costs of repairs it is the opinion of the Works Manager that the vehicle is beyond economical repair and therefore should be replaced. The Works Manager proposes a budget iro of £40,000-£45,000 in order to secure the purchase of a used vehicle mounted cherry picker which offers the same specification in terms of reach (boom height). The rationale for the purchase of a

used vehicle as opposed to new is due to the initial outlay costs which are considerably more, approximately £80,000.

- 2.2 Turning to the tractor over the last five year period vehicular and mechanical maintenance and repairs have cost approximately £10,000 on it. Due to the age of the tractor and the increase in bodywork and mechanical repairs required it would be prudent to budget for a replacement vehicle. Current online sales suggests a new (as opposed to second hand) replacement tractor, similar specification and model to the current asset would cost in the region of £35,000 - £45,000 including accessories.
- 2.3 It is recognised that the two foregoing purchases, if made, would empty the existing budget. Therefore by way of reassurance (assuming that replenishment of the reserve is scheduled over a 5 year period), relating to the age and condition of the remaining fleet, it is anticipated that neither significant ongoing repair costs or capital replacement will not be necessary in the short term. Consideration was also given to non fossil fuel options, but these are either not available/practical/affordable given the vehicle types under review.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 Looking ahead to the 2027-2028 financial year, the Works Manager proposes a budget is secured iro of £35,000 - £45,000 (including accessories) to secure a replacement compact utility tractor. Considering the options of buying new or second hand, benchmarking against the previous approach where we purchased new, the reassurance of having a vehicle which was within purchase cost tolerances, under warranty, from this approach we have felt that we have received value for money over a 20 year period compared to other second hand vehicles the Council have bought, where there has been a mixed success rate, some of which proving to be a maintenance burden almost from the outset. That being said, it is realised that there are economic and field test reliability benefits from purchasing second hand and products such as tractors have value retention pros compared to other assets, and therefore Officers would not be adverse to purchasing a second hand newer model if it met the right criteria. In summary, looking at the apportionment of budgets, to replace both vehicles over

the anticipated timeframes, it is felt achievable by purchasing a second hand cherry picker and a new tractor

- 3.2 To conclude the Works Manager proposes a budget in the region of £40,000-£45,000 in order to secure the purchase of a used vehicle mounted cherry picker which offers the same specification in terms of reach (boom height) and to approve a budget in the region of £35,000 - £45,000 for 2027-2028 financial year for the purchase of a replacement compact utility tractor.

**BECKY ROWE
WORKS MANAGER
TAVISTOCK TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 2025**