

8. ANIMAL CONTROL VEHICLES

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The purpose of this report is to respond to a request for information from this Committee during the budget process concerning an increase in charges for the Animal Control Section vehicles for 2002/2003 budget year.

CURRENT POSITION

During the past 12 months Corporate Services Unit has been reviewing the method used for charging Units for plant employed by them. This has resulted in moving from the use of broad to more targeted categories for the charging of plant. In doing so an attempt has been made to reduce the level of hire charge subsidisation inherent in the broad classifications and move towards a model that reflects more accurately the true cost of the plant employed. This means that in many cases charges are reduced while in a few cases charges are increased.

Animal Control Section has clearly not benefited from this approach which has however allowed us to reduce the overall budgeted vehicle hire costs to Council Units by 17% in the 2002/2003 budget.

The Utility vehicles presently hired by Animal Control Section are tailored to the specific needs of the work they are required to do. Special additional features include the fitting of a Rhino tray lining and a canopy. The availability of vehicles on the market was looked at and there were no cheaper options that would meet the needs of the Section. The vehicles are used solely for work purposes, and are taken home at night but are not used for personal use.

The costs of leasing the vehicles has also been investigated. Indicative prices received on the specific plant in question indicate that leasing would increase costs by approximately 16%.

Chairman's

Recommendation: That the information be received.