**Newry Mourne and Down District Council**

**FLEET RENEWAL POLICY**

The Council fleet plays a key role in supporting and providing essential services on behalf of the Council.

It is therefore imperative that the fleet is fit for purpose and is constantly reviewed to ensure it is effective and efficient and meets legislative requirements, such as the operator’s licence.

Major capital is invested into the fleet, so it is vital vehicles are assessed and replaced, when it is seen to be most economically advantageous to the council, reflecting on increasing revenue costs.

**Vehicles required for new or expanding services**

Where a department intends to introduce new services that require new or additional vehicles, they will include the vehicle requirements as part of their business plan. Once agreed, these additional vehicles will be purchased via the fleet management section.

**Renewal of existing vehicles**

In general most vehicles tend to be replaced between the age range of five to ten years. A number of factors need to be taken into consideration: Age; Vehicle condition; Whole life costs; Maintenance Costs; Depreciation; Fuel Costs; Environment in which the vehicle operates; Downtime; Environmental issues; New technology; Availability of replacement parts; Multiple driver usage. Each vehicle when put forward by the fleet section will require an economic appraisal completed, justifying the need for replacement.

A detailed analysis has been carried out on refuse collection vehicle, which indicated that these vehicles should be replaced after seven years in operations before maintenance

costs supersede equivalent capital costs and also start to have an impact on service provision. It is therefore recommended that these vehicles are replaced after seven years.

The fleet assets register will indicated the likely replacement date of every vehicle and will be annually reviewed as part of the capital estimates programme.

The Council will take on board the fleet industry best practice guidelines.

Purchase and disposal of vehicles will be in line with the council’s procurement and disposal policies and procedures.