**Newry Mourne and Down District Council**

**FLEET TELEMETRY SYSTEM POLICY**

A vehicle telemetry system is primarily a GPS tracking unit device that uses the Global Positioning Satellite system to determine the precise location of a vehicle or other asset to which it is attached and to record the position of the asset at regular intervals. The recorded location data can be stored within the tracking unit, or it may be transmitted to a central location data base, or internet-connected computer. This allows the asset's location to be displayed against a map backdrop either in real-time or when reviewing the track later, using customised software. In addition, it can also monitor how the vehicle is driven and also usage of equipment such as bin lifts on refuse vehicles and sweeper brush activation on sweeping vehicles. Some more advanced systems can also provide the driver with scheduled work information regarding the task in hand.

The Council’s will place telemetry devices in all Council vehicles, thus affording a measure of protection and security to the staff using them, as well as protecting these vehicles which are a very expensive/valuable asset.

Benefits to the Council include:

• Protection of lone workers in terms of locating them in the event of emergency/failure to report in

• Vehicle Recovery in the event of theft

• Location of vehicle in the event of breakdowns or accidents

• Insurance Claims - provide protection in relation to fraudulent claims by proving the vehicle was not in the vicinity of the alleged accident

• Protection of staff from complaints and accusations from the public

• Protecting drivers in relation to faults with speed limiter devices

• Service alerts to remind when a vehicle is due a service

• Monitor driving behaviour – How long, how fast, as well as determine whether they were braking or steering harshly

• Health & Safety ‘Duty of Care’ obligations

Help promote safer driving techniques

• Assist in controlling the costs of operating the fleet

• Help in delivering an efficient and effective fleet

• Assist in protecting the Council’s Operators Licence

In addition, such technology could be very beneficial with respect to fleet management, for example in planning of routes for waste collection, as imbalances between different rounds could be easily and fairly addressed, leading to more effective routes and reduction in costs associated with inefficient rounds. Clearly this could help address a number of concerns raised by staff and trade unions in the past.

The fleet telemetry system procedure will be developed to reflect the policy.