

CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL

Purchase of Hako Citymaster Road and Footway Sweeper

Introduction

The Parish Council has negotiated the opportunity to purchase one or two Hako Citymaster compact sweepers currently available from South Swindon Parish Council.

The sweepers were originally purchased in 2021 at a cost of approximately £69,000 each and have been used for street cleansing duties in South Swindon.

The machines are purpose-built compact sweepers suitable for footways, car parks, our 'parades', pathways and other public realm areas within the Parish.

The proposed purchase price has been negotiated as £8,000 per sweeper, representing a significant reduction from the original acquisition cost and provides best value with usage to date.

Photographs supplied show the machines to be complete and operational, with enclosed cabs, sweeping equipment, collection hoppers and camera systems installed. Operational hour readings indicate typical municipal use.

Background

The Parish Council currently relies on external contractors and manual sweeping operations for maintaining footpaths and public spaces.

Ownership of a dedicated sweeper has been debated as far back as 2017 but has to date proven difficult to justify the capital expenditure. Sweepers would provide:

- Improved cleanliness standards throughout the Parish, particularly along the Western Flyer, St Marks & Penhill Parks, alongside Pinetrees and any of our pathways wide enough and without cycle restriction rails.
- Greater flexibility in responding to seasonal demands.
- Reduced reliance on hired equipment.
- Improved appearance of public spaces.
- The ability to undertake additional cleansing operations when required.
- More effective labour use for ID Verde, allowing duties to be completed elsewhere.

It is proposed that the machine(s) would be stored at Pinetrees, where secure storage and access for maintenance can be provided.

The Council would not directly employ an operator for the machine. Instead, ID Verde would be responsible for operating the sweeper as part of their grounds maintenance and cleansing activities within the Parish. Although the Council could next year include a dedicated position within the budget and employ directly if desired.

Financial Considerations

CAPEX:

Item	Cost
Purchase of one sweeper	£8,000
Purchase of two sweepers	£16,000

Original Cost

The machines were purchased new by South Swindon Parish Council in 2021 for approximately £69,000 each.

The proposed acquisition therefore represents a purchase price of around 12% of original cost, providing best value for a specialist municipal vehicle.

Revenue Costs

Annual operating costs are expected to include:

Item	Estimated Annual Cost
Replacement sweeping pads/brushes	£3,000
Routine servicing and maintenance	As required
Fuel	Operational usage dependent
Insurance and compliance	Motor Policy change approx. £870.00

The principal identified recurring expenditure is replacement sweeping pads and brushes with insurance changes to our existing fleet policy is estimated at approximately £3,870 per annum.

Option 1: Purchase One Sweeper

Advantages

- Lowest capital expenditure (£8,000).
- Provides immediate operational capability.
- Lower maintenance and storage costs.
- Suitable for current operational requirements.
- Reduced financial risk.

Disadvantages

- No operational resilience if the machine is unavailable due to servicing or breakdown.
- Limited flexibility during periods of high demand.

Option 2 – Purchase Two Sweepers

Advantages

- Operational resilience and continuity of service.
- Availability of a spare machine during maintenance periods.
- Ability to undertake multiple operations simultaneously if required.
- Opportunity to retain one machine primarily for parts should repairs become necessary.

Disadvantages

- Higher capital outlay (£16,000).
- Increased storage and maintenance requirements.
- Potential for one machine to remain under-utilised.

Recommendation

Option A (Preferred)

Approve the purchase of one Hako Citymaster sweeper for £8,000, to be stored at Pinetrees and operated by ID Verde, with provision made for approximately £3,000 per annum for replacement sweeping pads and brushes.

Alternative Option B

Should reserve allocation permit and subject to confirmation of storage and maintenance arrangements, approve the purchase of two Hako Citymaster sweepers at a total cost of £16,000 (The Clerk to renegotiate a lower price for the two if possible to £14,000), providing operational resilience and a spare vehicle for future use.

Revenue cost should be doubled to around £7,740.

Proposed Resolution.

"That the Parish Council approves the purchase of one Hako Citymaster sweeper for the sum of £8,000, to be stored at Pinetrees and operated by ID Verde, and that provision be made within future budgets for annual replacement brush and pad costs estimated at £3,870 per annum