

Report

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Report to:	Community Services Committee
Date of Meeting:	17 February 2015
Report by:	Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

Subject:	ECO (Efficient and Cleaner Operations) Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme
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1. Purpose of report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ advise the Committee of the outcome of the assessment of Fleet Services in the ECO (Efficient and Cleaner Operations) Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme and seek approval to launch the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme in South Lanarkshire

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the rating of Fleet Services in the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme assessment be noted; and
- (2) that the ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme be launched in South Lanarkshire.

3. Background

- 3.1. The Environment Act 1995 places a statutory obligation on local authorities to review and assess the quality of air within their district and to compare the findings with the National Air Quality Objectives (NAQO). Although air quality is generally good within South Lanarkshire, there are areas that have been identified through the review and assessment reporting mechanism where air quality is poor and this is predominantly as the result of road transport pollution.
- 3.2. Following a detailed assessment of air quality within the area surrounding the Whirlies Roundabout, East Kilbride, an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in November 2008 due to the likely exceedance of the 2010 NAQO for PM₁₀ (Particulate matter less than 10 microns).
- 3.3. On site monitoring has identified other areas across South Lanarkshire which require further investigation or potentially the need to declare new Local Air Quality Management Areas (LAQMAs).
- 3.4. The Council is obligated to prepare Action Plans to tackle any existing LAQMAs and grant applications are made to the Scottish Government for funding to deliver on initiatives or projects which will tackle and/or investigate the local air quality issues identified in the Action Plans.

- 3.5. The Council recognises the impact its day to day operations may have on air quality and is committed to lead by example for the attainment of air quality improvements.
- 3.6. Fleet and Environmental Services successfully secured funding in 2014/2015 from the Scottish Government Air Quality Action Plan Grant Fund to implement the ECO Stars (Efficient and Cleaner Operations) Fleet Recognition Scheme in South Lanarkshire.

4 Eco Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme

- 4.1. The Eco Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme is a free, voluntary scheme that provides recognition, guidance and advice on operational best practice to operators of goods vehicles, buses and coaches. The aim of the scheme is to help fleet operators improve efficiency, reduce fuel consumption and reduce emissions, all helping to improve local air quality.
- 4.2. The Eco Stars Scheme in South Lanarkshire will be open to all operators of vans, trucks, buses and coaches who are based in South Lanarkshire or operate regularly in the area.
- 4.3. The Eco Stars Scheme, which was originally developed by the South Yorkshire local authorities in 2009, recognises the efforts of fleet operators to improve their operational and environmental performance. It does this by providing star ratings between 1 and 5 for both individual vehicles within a fleet and overall fleet management practices. Member businesses and transport operators receive a free operational efficiency review and road map to outline the measures they can practically take.
- 4.4. The South Lanarkshire ECO Stars Scheme will be managed by Transport and Travel Research Limited on behalf of South Lanarkshire.
- 4.5. Several household names have been identified to participate in the first year and it is proposed to launch the scheme with some of these companies.
- 4.6. Fleet Services became the first member of the South Lanarkshire ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme in November 2014 and attained the overall operational rating of 4 stars.
- 4.7. Members are assessed on 6 categories:-
 - ◆ fleet composition
 - ◆ fuel management
 - ◆ driver skills development
 - ◆ vehicle specification/preventative maintenance
 - ◆ use of IT support systems
 - ◆ performance monitoring and management
- 4.8. A 'Road Map' is then developed suggesting areas for improvement.

4.9. The Eco Stars efficiency review of Fleet Services was summarised as follows -

“Our review of South Lanarkshire Council’s Fleet operation confirms that it is run with consideration of impact on the environment and service provided. South Lanarkshire Council’s work towards low emission, sustainable fleet provision has increased awareness across all council services of the importance of minimising fuel consumption. The Council has a rigorous, comprehensive and well maintained fuel management programme. It is clear that the Council has a number of environmental and fuel management procedures and initiatives in place that reflect the commitment the Council has to enhanced environmental performance and this is reflected in the 4 award.”*

The review identified 6 recommended areas for possible improvement

- ◆ Continue to review the need to fit anti-idling technology
- ◆ Consider specific anti-idling training in the absence of stop-start technology
- ◆ Review with all services how closely they monitor driver MPG
- ◆ Encourage driver feedback to ensure buy in and allow for any new ideas to be suggested
- ◆ Improve understanding of current telematics functionality and data structure
- ◆ Consider routing and scheduling packages to apply to e.g. schools transport

All recommendations will be included in Fleet Services Fuel Efficiency Strategy for 2015/2016.

5. Employee Implications

- 5.1. There are no employee implications associated with this report.

6. Financial information

- 6.1. All costs associated with this initiative will be met from Scottish Government Grant Funding 2014/2015.

7. Other implications

- 7.1 Developing the Eco Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme will improve air quality and contribute to South Lanarkshire Councils sustainability aims.

- 7.2. There are no significant risks associated with the proposals.

8. Equality Impact Assessment and consultation arrangements

- 8.1 This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.

- 8.2 There was no requirement to undertake an Equality Impact Assessment or consultation in terms of the content of this report.

Colin McDowall
Executive Director (Community and Enterprise Resources)

16 January 2015

Link(s) to Council Objectives/Values

- ◆ Improve the quality of life of everyone in South Lanarkshire.
- ◆ Accountable, Effective and Efficient.
- ◆ Self Aware and improving.
- ◆ Develop a Sustainable Council and Communities.
- ◆ Strengthen Partnership Working, Community Leadership and Engagement.

Previous references

- ◆ Community Resources Committee Report 3 June 2008
- ◆ Community Resources Committee Report 11 November 2008
- ◆ Risk and Audit Scrutiny Forum Report 16 December 2010

List of background papers

- ◆ ECO Stars Fleet Recognition Scheme – Scheme Member Road Map

Contact for further information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-Craig Brown, Environmental Services Manager

Phone: 01698 454403

Email: Craig.M.Brown@southlanarkshire.gov.uk