FBC – Revenue Growth Bid 2020/21

Prepared by/Bid Originator – Andrew Loynd

Scheme Title: Bus Shelter Maintenance budget

Description of Scheme:

1. Background

The bus shelter maintenance budget is currently set at £9,000 per year. This budget is to be used for all repairs and replacements for 76 standard (metal frame with Perspex/glazed windows) and brick shelters. This equates to £118.42 per shelter.

Most years at least one shelter is seriously damaged, e.g. a vehicle collision, resulting in the shelter needing to be replaced or (for brick shelters) rebuilt. Each incident costs in the region of £5,000 to remedy. In addition, there are spates of vandalism that affects multiple shelters resulting in Perspex/glazed panels being damaged. Remaining budgets are normally spent on making these damaged shelters safe and where possible replacing Perspex/glazed panels.

With annual budgets normally being used to reactively repair shelters, no pro-active programme of maintenance has been possible. Lancashire County Council recommends an annual maintenance budget of £800 per year per unlit shelter.

2. Proposal

The Operational Management Committee's Bus Shelter Working Group has reviewed this situation and has suggested that the annual budget be increased by £11,000 to £20,000 which would equate to £263.15 per shelter. This is still some way short of Lancashire County Council's recommendation, but Fylde Officers believe it will enable a pro-active maintenance programme to be initiated.

The pro-active maintenance programme will include replacing lower Perspex/glazed panels with painted sheet metal to reduce the number of panels that can be smashed. This will be done in a way that reflects the more recent shelters that have been installed which do not have Perspex lower sections. In addition, larger upper panels will be divided by central supports to reduce the size of panels should they be vandalised and need replacing plus other strengthening work. The additional funding will also enable a programme of repainting and more thorough cleaning to be implemented so that older shelters can be refreshed. Requests for additional facilities, such as the creation of side panels or seating for those shelters without them, will be considered. If enough funding remains in the budget, then shelters that are in very poor condition or beyond improvement can be replaced.

3. Outcomes (including details of the broader benefits achieved -for example community or environmental benefit, health and safety compliance, or statutory obligations)

- Properly maintained shelters can encourage use of local bus services, helping to protect them from future funding cuts.
- Damaged and poorly maintained shelters, particularly those in remote areas, can be imposing environments whereas those properly maintained are more likely to be used who feel vulnerable or may otherwise suffer from isolation.
- Well maintained shelters will have a positive impact on the street scene
- Well maintained shelters could be adopted by Community Groups to add planters to them and use them as a feature for In Bloom initiatives or businesses to sponsor.
- Shelters being properly maintained will avoid them falling further into disrepair which could have associated health and safety implications plus will help to extend the useful life thereby reducing future replacement costs.

4. Contribution to corporate objectives (how does the proposal achieve or help deliver priorities within the Corporate Plan?)

Clean and Green

-   Continue to deliver high standards of cleanliness

A Vibrant Economy

-   Improve the transport infrastructure and traffic flow

A Great Place to Live

-   Provide a positive first impression of Fylde

Summary of revenue costs   **£000**

Additional budget	11,000
Total cost per annum	**11,000**

Any Other Information

The council is committed to continue working with partners (LCC and the transport providers) to achieve the maximum from all resources used in the provision of bus shelters, including the installation of new shelters where required and the improvement of existing facilities.