



STAFFORDSHIRE MOORLANDS SAY 'YES, YES, YES' TO SFS!

When it comes to the field of fleet servicing, maintenance and repair, SFS is certainly up there with the best. Today, for example, the company works closely with many local authority and government partners to provide them with unprecedented levels of service and maintenance support. And nowhere is this more applicable than through the relationship that SFS enjoys with Staffordshire Moorlands District Council.

SFS first became associated with Staffordshire Moorlands in 1999. Following an initial tendering process, SFS secured a contract to supply the Council with a number of refuse collection and street cleansing vehicles, which included an initial intake of Dennis Eagle's Phoenix 23 RCVs and light vans. Today, however, it's a far different story and one that centres on more than simply overseeing the provision of the Council's new vehicle intake, as important as this may be.

As Craig Hatton, Staffordshire Moorlands District Council's Head of Environmental Services states: "Having experienced difficulties undertaking both our own maintenance in the past and when electing to employ a neighbouring local authority to do so, we decided to issue a new tender in 2005 that would result in a third party specialist bringing maintenance back to Moorlands. As part of the tendering process we laid down a number of very demanding and extremely acute requirements. And it was in response to these that SFS submitted a very compelling, powerful, effective and what we believed at the time was a deliverable proposal. SFS were awarded the contract and the rest, as they say, is history"

But have things turned out as the Council had expected? As an upbeat Craig enthuses: "It would be amiss of me not to start by saying that the decision to appoint SFS has proved to be one of the best decisions that we've ever made when it comes to fleet servicing and maintenance. For not only has SFS lived up to our expectations since starting the five year contract in 2005, they have proved that by adopting a very pro-active approach to service they are prepared to go that little bit further to ensure that the operating efficiency of our fleet is maximised at all times."

Under the terms of the maintenance contract that is set to run until 2010 with the option for the Council to extend this for a further period, SFS now maintains a Staffordshire Moorlands fleet that currently stands at some 38 vehicles. Despite having closed its own workshop in 2002, the facility was refurbished by the Council and re-opened to coincide

with the commencement of the SFS contract. Today, it is not only staffed by SFS's own personnel but supported by a number of Mobile Engineers who are on hand to support the maintenance and servicing programme.

As Craig goes on to add: "Since having SFS on board, we have already realised a number of operational improvements that have largely come about as a result of reducing vehicle downtime, not to mention a significant number of cost savings that have accrued in the process. This, in turn, has meant that we have found ourselves in a position where we can re-invest in additional fleet resources, thereby enabling us to expand our service provision to all residents across the district."

Indeed, SFS has supplied Staffordshire Moorlands with a number of additional vehicle types that have included three Geesink RL200 refuse vehicles, three Schmidt Swingo sweepers, two Johnston VT 650 sweepers and six Transit tippers. What's more, SFS is also set to deliver four Dennis Eagle high capacity Twin Pack recycling RCVs to the Council later this year. Specified with Dennis Eagle's new 50/50 body compartment split and equipped with Terberg bin lifts, the Twin Packs will be deployed to deliver a new recycling initiative that will be rolled out across the district in September.

Replacing the kerbside collection scheme that is currently implemented by third party contractors, using the new Twin Packs will see the Council collect dry recyclables using both wheeled bins and bags. Cans, plastics and glass collected by residents in wheeled bins will be deposited in one of the Twin Packs general compaction bodies, the other being used for paper.

Commenting on the decision to move from kerbside collection of recyclables, Craig concluded by saying: "The latest research has identified that there can be serious health and safety issues associated with kerbside collection of recyclables and as a result are looking to address these by moving to a co-mingled scheme. Furthermore, we believe that the changes that we are looking to introduce will make it far easier for our residents to collect recyclable materials. This in turn should impact positively on our recycling targets."

March 2007

Head Office

Specialist Fleet Services Limited
Cheviot House 53 Sheep Street
Northampton NN1 2NE
Telephone: **01604 234601**
Fax: **01604 234921**
www.sfs.co.uk