

## **Ashford Borough Council Bus Shelters**

### **Background**

Ashford Borough Council own 93 bus stops which are constructed from a variety of materials. Fifty-nine of these shelters are constructed out of steel frame and polycarbonate and twenty-four comprise of a mix of steel frame, polycarbonate and glass. The remaining ten are steel frame and glass.

### **Contract**

There are 11 bus stops which are directly maintained by the Borough Council and the remaining 82 are managed under an existing contract with Clear Channel which expires in January 2023.

The contract with Clear Channel is cost neutral; Clear Channel have the advertising rights in exchange for having the responsibility of undertaking all required repairs. It could be argued that there is a reduction in overall cost as without this contract the liability to monitor, maintain and repair the shelters would sit with the Borough Council. The Corporate Property team are in the process of reviewing and signing an amended contract with Clear Channel.

The bus shelters not included in the contract are those that do not provide opportunity for advertising to be displayed on them. Moving forward Clear Channel will be upgrading its poster advertising to a digital format.

### **Anti-Social Behaviour**

Officers are aware of the anti-social behaviour and as such have instructed Clear Channel to replace any broken glass panels with Perspex. When the contract is renewed, if not before, officers can start making plans for all glass panels to be replaced.

### **Carbon Neutrality**

In line with the Council's carbon neutrality agenda, officers will be considering the installation of green roofs on existing bus stops where practical over the coming years. This proposal will offer a 'softer' approach to the environment with biodiversity /green/climate change and minor reductions to surface water run-off benefits.

### **New Bus Shelters**

It should be noted that for several years now the only new bus shelters have been those that have been delivered through S106 monies and that meet the standard for the Clear Channel contract. Officers intend to continue with this approach for new bus shelters in order to deliver the amenities at no extra cost to the tax-payer.

Victoria Couper-Samways

Property Building Services & Facilities Manager

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