

# CASE STUDY

## NEWCASTLE CITY COUNCIL



### **Newcastle City Council enhances maintenance productivity with new screed vehicle**

Newcastle upon Tyne is a university city on the River Tyne in northeast England and the eighth most populous urban area in the United Kingdom. Joined to Gateshead by the iconic Millennium Bridge with its unique tilting aperture, the city is now a centre of business, arts and sciences.

## The Challenge

In order to enhance the efficiency of Highway maintenance operations throughout the region, including the A69 across to Carlisle, Newcastle City Council opted to replace an ageing legacy vehicle that was becoming increasingly unreliable. The council required the new vehicle to be specified with features that both increased productivity and enabled compliance with all relevant health and safety guidelines.

## The Solution

Newcastle City Council specified larger capacity pre-heaters, capable of delivering extended productivity between refilling and enabling jobs to be carried out in less time. The on-board gas storage facility features a single point safe-fill system to provide the highest levels of safety when refuelling. To comply with health and safety guidelines for working at height, Somerford fitted safety railings around the vehicle, plus an integrated pedestrian side step well to improve rear access. The vehicle was also built with fully electronic, rear-mounted LED traffic control lights and platform lighting to ensure the safety of operatives around the clock.

The new screed applicator is equipped with a canopy that extends around the entire vehicle, making it easier for operatives to work in all weather conditions. Other specifications include extended storage facilities for materials and traffic management equipment, and a larger pedestrian hand marking pram to allow for more to be done between refilling.

Malcolm Boakes, Highway Scheme Manager (Highways Maintenance and Operations Communities Directorate at Newcastle City Council) said “Somerford Equipment provided us with a screed vehicle that is clearly focused on allowing us to achieve more in less time. It has already exceeded our expectations, particularly for the highways maintenance team who worked so closely with the company throughout the development and manufacturing process.”



“Somerford Equipment was selected after an extensive evaluation as part of the formal tender process. The company impressed us throughout, working alongside our frontline staff and providing informed advice and expertise to help scope the specifications.”

Malcolm Boakes,  
Highway Scheme Manager



## ON THE ROAD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

With over fifty years’ experience in the manufacture of road marking vehicles and equipment, Somerford is renowned worldwide for the quality, durability and reliability of our products. As an industry leader in the UK, we are recognised for bringing safer, more efficient and innovative vehicle builds and equipment to the global market, with a range of support services that are second to none.