



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

Thursday 13th February 2025

Subject: Update report on Civic Car replacement

Report by:

Director of Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

Emma Foy
Director of Corporate Services
Emma.foy@west-lindsey.gov.uk

Purpose / Summary:

To provide Members with options in considering replacement of the current Civic Car.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Members are asked to approve one of the following three recommendations:

- a) The existing civic car is maintained for 2025-26 with no further contribution made to the reserve for its replacement in 2025-26. A further decision for later replacement is brought back to this committee no later than the 28th of February 2026.
- b) Members commit to replacing the car in 2025-26 using the earmarked reserve and sales proceeds from the existing vehicle.
- c) The existing car is disposed of, and no vehicle is provided for the use of the Chairman or Vice Chairman for civic duties.

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

Any vehicle needs to be procured in line with Standing Orders. The car is insured and maintained regularly has a MOT and is fully and comprehensively insured.

Financial: FIN/145/24/PD

The current annual cost of the existing vehicle is approximately £2,400 dependent on mileage and use of driver. This includes insurance, vehicle road licence and MOT/ Servicing. Funding for these costs is in the budget throughout the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

There is £20,000 in the replacement reserve currently.

The current vehicle has a second-hand value of approximately £15,000.

Staffing:

There is funding available to engage a driver of the civic car as and when needed.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

If the Council does not have access to a vehicle and driver for Civic duties it restricts the individuals that are able to carry out the role. Anyone not able to drive due to disability would not be able to fulfil the role to travel to Civic events without the use of public transport or taxi hire.

Data Protection Implications

No implications from this report.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

There is a negative impact of using car travel (petrol) to travel to events. Unfortunately, public transport is not a viable alternative within our district area. The operation of an electric vehicle has a smaller footprint however, the build of the car and battery brings with it a detrimental carbon impact.

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

n/a

Health Implications:

n/a

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

n/a

Risk Assessment:

n/a

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e., is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

1.0 Context for decision

- 1.1 In February 2024, an options report was brought to this Committee to request a decision on whether to replace the Civic Car, dispose of the Civic Car or to maintain the existing vehicle with the decision brought back to Members to reconsider no later than the 28 February 2025. This Committee chose to maintain the existing vehicle for 12 months and to reconsider in February 2025. This report asks Member to reconsider the options again.
- 1.2 The Council's owns a car that was purchased in 2020. The car is for use by the Chairman or Vice Chairman when carrying out civic duties. There is also the availability of a driver for use by the Chairman/ Vice Chairman when carrying out civic duties if that is requested.
- 1.3 In the last three years the car has been rarely used. This being noted, the availability of a vehicle is essential in ensuring that all Members regardless of whether they can drive or have access to a car are fully able to carry out the role of Chairman. The car is annually serviced,

MOT'd and stored at the depot in Caenby Corner. The car was purchased in 2020 and to date has 9425 miles "on the clock".

- 1.4 In the period since 2021 to 2023, an annual revenue contribution of £10,000 was made to reserves to ensure that there is sufficient funding available in an earmarked reserve to replace the car when needed. It was originally anticipated that the car would be replaced during 2024-25. The balance held in reserves is £20,000. The car is in excellent condition and the latest prudent estimation of value of the car is £14,855 (We buy any car). This provides an approximate replacement cash fund of approximately £35,000 if Members decided on Option B. If Members approved Option C, the reserve balance could be released, the sales proceeds would be transferred to Capital Receipts Reserve and could be used for approved capital expenditure.
- 1.5 In January 2024, a report on reserves was brought to Corporate Policy and Resource Committee and requested that the contribution of £10,000 be drawn down from revenue into reserves. Members requested that this contribution was not made due to the lack of use of the car and a report be brought to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee in February 2024 as per paragraph 1.1.

2.0 Information to support options and decision by Committee

- 2.1 At the January C, P&R meeting, Members asked officers to confirm costs incurred relating to the existing vehicle and whether it would be possible to share a car with a neighbouring Local Authority. Officers investigated opportunities to share the car with North Lincolnshire Council, City of Lincoln Council and North Kesteven Council. Unfortunately, there was no aspiration to share a vehicle with us.
- 2.2 Officers also investigated the cost of replacing the vehicle with an electric vehicle and whether sufficient funds already existed in the reserve to do that combined with the sale of the existing vehicle. A number of manufacturers have recently introduced mid-size electric vehicles with a 200–300-mile range which are available new at just under the £30,000 price-point. Examples of these cars are the Renault Megane E-Tech, MG4 SE, Hyundai Kona and Citroen E-C3 and E-C4. There are further variants and the information provide her is by way of example.
- 2.3 If the current vehicle was sold and not replaced there is an ongoing revenue budget of approximately £2,400. This budget would be used to fund mileage claims or taxi and public transport journeys for the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman. This budget currently covers the annual costs of running the car. This funding is available in existing budgets in the current year and in 2025-26 onwards. There is no staff allocation for making arrangements for taxi or train journeys and this should be considered by Members when considering Recommendations, A-C.

2.4 Members can take a decision on a future reserve allocation or purchase at any time through a recommendation to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee. Therefore, the choice of option one does not preclude bringing option two or three forward to Committee in the future.