



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

Thursday 8th February 2024

Subject: Update report on Civic Car replacement

Report by:

Director of Corporate Services

Contact Officer:

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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 2024-25 with no further contribution made to the reserve for its replacement in 2024-25. A further decision for later replacement is brought back to this committee no later than the 28th February 2025.
- b) Members commit to replacing the car with an electric vehicle during 2024-25 and a further revenue contribution of £10,000 is made to the vehicle contribution reserve to ensure a car of suitable size and range can be purchased.
- c) The existing car is disposed of, and no vehicle is provided for the use of the 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 are 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 £16,000.

Staffing:

There is currently an individual employed on a zero hours contract to drive the car when required.

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.

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

x

Key Decision:

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

Yes

No

x

1.0 Context for decision

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 In the last two 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.
- 1.3 Since 2019, an annual revenue contribution of £10,000 has been 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.

- 1.4 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.
- 1.5 Members of the Committee challenged the value for money in replacing the car in 2024-25 and asked Officers to consider further options and asked for the decision to be brought forward to the next Committee meeting.

2.0 Information to support options and decision by Committee

- 2.1 At the previous Committee 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.
- 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 2.4 The annual costs of running the car have been reviewed and are approximately £2,400 per annum whilst mileage is low. This funding is available in existing budgets for 2024-25 onwards.
- 2.5 The current balance on the reserve is £20,000, combined with an approximate sales value of £16,000 provides a balance available of £36,000. Whilst a new electric car could be purchased for this balance the choice of vehicle, range and size is likely to be limited but not impossible.
- 2.6 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 forward to Committee in the future.