

POLICY, GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Date: Monday, 27 March 2023
Title: Council's Vehicle Fleet
Contact Officer: Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) – Nigel Warner

Background

At the Council meeting on 13 February 2023 Members agreed to proposals from officers to acquire and replace a number of vehicles. Members may wish to have reference to the report of the Town Clerk which was presented to the meeting of 13 February 2023.

The purpose of this report is to update Members on action taken since the meeting.

Current Situation

Purchases

As agreed on 13 February 2023 and provided for within the budget the following vehicle has been purchased and delivered to the Council:

Can-Am Traxter Pro, Petrol 800cc. Reg. Number OY69KVC, purchase price £12,000.

Vehicles on order

As agreed on 13 February 2023 and provided for within the budget the following vehicles have been ordered:

1. Mitsubishi Fuso Canter 3S13 Tipper: PO:4883, purchase price £35,000.
2. ISUZU D-Max: PO:4881, purchase price £24,333.
3. In July 2022 the Council agreed to delegate authority to officers to purchase an electric vehicle. It was reported at the meeting of 13 February 2023 that the lead time on the order was significant and this, along with the demands on the fleet following grounds maintenance being taken inhouse was having an impact on efficient working. Consideration was given to cancelling the order but it was decided not to but to keep the matter under review.

Your officers are pleased to report that since the meeting the Council were made aware that a number of Nissan Townstar electric vehicles had become available directly from stock for registration and delivery before 31 March 2023. Additional manufacturers discount support was offered above standard terms. The vehicles were available on a first come first served basis and were likely to be in high demand given current production and lead time challenges facing the industry. The Nissan Townstar would be a replacement for Nissan Primera currently owned by the Council. With the budget and authority an order had been placed for:

Nissan Townstar L2: PO:4882, purchase price £30,519. Note that a government grant of £2,500 will part-fund this purchase.

A spreadsheet is attached to summarise these purchases and their funding.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Officers always consider environmental issues when procuring goods to ensure where possible the Council's climate emergency declaration aspiration is taken into account. However this will need to be balanced with availability and suitability of what is on the market in order to meet the Council's needs for efficiency and productivity.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

As mentioned above the Council needs to be realistic in what is available on the market to meet the Council's needs for efficiency and productivity particularly given the economic climate and the rising costs of most things.

The newly purchased vehicle has been insured and the vehicles on order will be insured in time for delivery.

Financial implications

The financial implications are detailed in this report and are in accordance with Council decisions.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and endorse the purchases of the vehicles as previously agreed.