

## **POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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**Date:** Monday, 21 November 2022

**Title:** Vehicle Replacement

**Contact Officer:** Operations Manager - Angus Whitburn

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### **Background**

In the Policy Governance and Finance meeting in July the council agreed to the purchase of its first electric vehicle to replace the oldest vehicle in the Town Council fleet. The Nissan Primera box van's replacement fund covered the cost of a fully electric UTV, expanding the council operations. To assist with the vehicle requirements of bringing the grounds contract in house the Nissan Primera van was retained – it was hoped to keep this as long as possible.

Due to the long lead times of new vehicles its recommend that the council look at replacing the next vehicle due for renewal. The next vehicle is a Nissan Cabstar flatbed tipper which is a 2012 model

### **Current Situation**

#### **Status of the vehicle**

The Nissan Cabstar is the best vehicle in the council's fleet. It is compact, can tow large loads, has a 3-seater cab, is reliable and has a large payload capacity. Due to this it would be recommended that the Council retains the vehicle for as long as possible but purchase its replacement within this financial year and when viable, decommission the Nissan Primera, as it has now become unreliable and costly to maintain since the summer.

#### **Requirements of the replacement vehicle**

The replacement vehicle would have to have a large payload capacity to match that of the Cabstar. A vehicle with the ability to tow trailers with plant equipment is the ideal replacement, however if we retain the Cabstar which has been reliable this could remove this requirement.

#### **Electric Options**

There are multiple electric options which are small utility vehicles mainly used in multiplicities across Europe. They are starting to become more common with councils as their smaller size and payload capabilities make them ideal options for grounds maintenance work and increased access across parks, and small streets. The Operations Manager has test driven multiple options and they would be perfectly suited for work across the town.

The negative side to this option is they are not cable of towing plant equipment and they aren't safe to be used on dual carriageways, so would remove a vehicles option for picking up materials outside of the Town.

### **Diesel options**

There are two good direct replacements on the market for the Cabstar in the Mitsubishi Fuso Canter and the Isuzu N35 grafter. They are both diesel vehicles with similar capabilities as the current Cabstar vehicle.

### **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.

The conversion of the council vehicle fleet to electric is a positive step forward in achieving carbon neutrality. In purchasing a new diesel vehicle, the council are delaying that process.

### **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.

Due to the long lead time of new vehicles if the if the council do not agree to make a purchase of a new vehicle the council runs the risk that when a vehicle does fail it will have a major impact on operations.

The electric vehicles are not capable of towing heavy plant, this would have an impact on operations if the Cabstar was to become unreliable. However, by retaining the Cabstar we can help mitigate this issue and give the industry time to catch up with electric towing options.

### **Financial implications**

Described here or as stated in the report above.

The following are the current quotes for vehicles option listed in the above report.

- **Electric Option:** Goupil G4 with tipper body and cage: £38,161.74
- **Diesel:** Mitsubishi Fuso Canter 3S13 Tipper £31,500.00
- **Diesel:** Isuzu N35 grafter £29140.00

There is a renewals fund of £17,669.00 available against the Nissan Cabstar and an estimate £10,000.00 reaming in the earmark reserve for an electric vehicle.

### **Recommendations**

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. If additional finances can be identified, it is recommended that the council agree to purchase an electric utility vehicle and delegate to officers to procure one with a specification that best suit the council's requirements.
2. If additional funds cannot be identified, then the council agree to the direct replacement of the Cabstar with a diesel equivalent. Due to the lead times of new vehicles and the risk of running an old fleet.