

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director (Governance) (Introduced by the Executive Member Resources)	Executive Member Decision	1 October 2021

Replacement of the Mayoral Car

Purpose of report

- To agree the replacement of the Mayoral car to an electric powered vehicle in line with the Council's commitment to tackling climate change and air quality strategy.

Recommendation(s)

- That the current mayoral car be replaced by a Jaguar I Pace electric powered vehicle in line with the Council's commitment to tackling climate change and air quality.

Confidential report Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Key Decision? Please bold as appropriate	Yes	No
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Reasons for recommendation(s) (If the recommendations are accepted)

- The lease on the current Mayoral car has ended and it is important that a new vehicle is provided to ensure the Mayor is able to fulfil his important civic and community role, that the environmental commitments and aspirations of the Council are met, a British car marque is sourced and the vehicle meets service requirements.

Alternative options considered and rejected

- To replace the current car with a similar new petrol model, but this would not meet the environmental aspirations and commitment by the Council.
- Delaying the contracting for a new mayoral car until such time as the supply/ demand issues for microchips is resolved and costs decrease, was considered. However, this was discounted as the period of delay would be uncertain and could be significant. It is felt that the environmental damage caused by the delay and the councils failure to act as a community leader outweighs the additional cost involved.
- Sourcing and alternative electric vehicle could have realised annual savings on the lease fee, but alternative electric vehicles whilst meeting the environmental agenda criteria would fail to meet the priorities to support British business nor have the practical use benefits provided by the recommended vehicle.

Corporate priorities

7. This report relates to the following Strategic Objectives:

Involving residents in improving their local area and equality of access for all		A strong local economy	
Clean, safe and healthy homes and communities		An ambitious council that does more to meet the needs of residents and the local area	x

Background

8. The current Mayoral Car is a Jaguar XF Diesel Saloon and is on a 3-year lease arrangement.
9. The car lease has now come to an end and a replacement car is required to meet our current and future needs.

Mayoral Vehicle

10. In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency with the aim of being carbon neutral by 2030. The Council's Air Quality Strategy agreed earlier this year committed the council to invest in greener vehicles and promote electric powered vehicles. It is important that the Council leads by example and where possible electric vehicles are used.
11. The Council has a long tradition of supporting British industry and manufacturing. The proposed Mayoral Car is manufactured by identifiably British marque.
12. A review has taken place of the needs for the Mayoral car to ensure it allows the Mayor to undertake his important civic and community leadership role, meeting reliability, functionality, comfort and service needs.
13. Officers have undertaken extensive research to look at appropriate vehicles which meet the above key criteria.
14. Considering the agreed criteria outlined above the vehicle which most closely meets the Council's requirements is a Jaguar I Pace electric powered vehicle.
15. Due to the relatively new electric car technology the costs of vehicles are higher than conventional petrol vehicles and that is reflected in the leasing quotations obtained. Costs have also increased due to demand for microchips used in the manufacture of electric cars increasing, whilst supply due to global shortages becomes more strained.
16. Following a search of electric vehicle leases available using the Crown Commercial Procurement Framework the most economically advantageous vehicle lease would cost £7,756.06 per year (with a one-off cost of £750 for the Santorini Black colour option).
17. This annual leasing figure includes annual service costs and road fund licence. The current leasing cost of the Mayoral car is £4,526.28 (including annual service costs and road fund licence). The proposed electric vehicle leasing costs would therefore be an increase of £3,229.78 per year.
18. It should be recognised however, that there will be savings of approximately 70% on cost of fuel which accounts for an element of the increase in annual cost.

Implications of report

Risk

19. Unless the Council leads by example in using electric vehicles wherever possible there is a risk that we will not meet our target of being carbon neutral by 2030 and that if we do not lead by example others will not follow.
20. There would be a reputational risk if the Council did not follow its own environmental commitments.
21. This report has implications in the following areas and the relevant Directors' comments are included:

Finance	x	Customer Services	
Human Resources		Equality and Diversity	
Legal	x	Integrated Impact Assessment required?	
No significant implications in this area		Policy and Communications	

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

22. As detailed in the report there is an existing budget of £4,526.28 and the proposals would require an ongoing budget increase of £3,229.78 per year.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

23. The award of the proposed lease contract must comply with any provisions in Contract Procedure Rules applicable to the value of the contract. The Council also has a duty to obtain best value in the Local Government Act 1999.

Chris Moister
Director of Governance

Report Author	Ext	Date
Brendan Spear	01257 515180	1 October 2021

Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.



Dated 07.10.21

Councillor Peter Wilson
Executive Member (Resources)