

REPORT TO THE FINANCE, EMPLOYMENT & SERVICES COMMITTEE



Report Author	Gina Langley Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer
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Date	5th April 2022
Subject	Council Vehicle Provision

PURPOSE:

1. To seek approval from the Finance, Employment and Services (FES) Committee to recommend acceptance by Full Council for the Town Council to invest in a van to assist with Council business.

BACKGROUND:

2. Since 2021 Colne Town Council have employed two Lengthsmen to maintain land that the Town Council own or manage.
3. Some of the tasks set for the Lengthsmen are becoming difficult or cannot be completed using the Council's ATV.
4. The Council's ATV does have a trailer which is fine for the watering of the Town Centre Floral Displays, however it is proving to be of insufficient size for the majority of jobs required in the park. Unfortunately, due to size and weight restrictions, the ATV cannot pull a trailer any bigger than the one we have.
5. Up to present, the Senior Lengthsman has been using his own van to transport equipment and supplies, however due to the age and condition of this vehicle, this is not an option going forward.
6. More and more frequently, we are having to ask to borrow vehicles from other contractors.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

7. It is thought that the van could be stored on the cobbled area at Primet Community Centre, which is covered by the Town Council's CCTV network. The van could also be equipped with a tracker and steering wheel lock for when it is parked up.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

8. The average cost for a fully electric van which has done approximately 1,000 miles, is in the region of £34,000 net of VAT. If choosing this option, the Council would need to invest in the installation of a charging port.
9. The average cost for a brand new fully electric van, is in the region of £55,000 net of VAT., with a brand new electric van, we would qualify for a Government Grant for an electric charging port.
10. The average cost for a used diesel van is in the region of £25,000, for a three year old vehicle with around 15,000 miles on the clock.
11. As current forecasts are indicative of a surplus of around £100,000 for 2021/22, it is recommended that funds are set aside at the end of the year, to fund the purchase of an additional vehicle.

RECOMMENDATION:

12. It is recommended that the Council invest in a van to ensure that CTC maintenance staff can complete jobs as efficiently as possible without having to hire vehicles in and rely on third parties.
13. The Council's ATV puts limitations on which jobs can be completed, due to weight and size restrictions.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

14. The Council have taken on additional staff and services and the work capacity to maintain the land the Council owns/manages is becoming difficult.
15. The Lengthsmen are limited to what equipment they can take to jobs as the Council's ATV can only pull a specified weight and not all bits of equipment fit into the trailer.
16. As the ATV can only pull a specified amount and the trailer is only small, the Lengthsmen are limited to the equipment they can transport safely, which are not always the best tools for the job.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS:

17. Outstanding jobs for the Lengthsmen are difficult to complete due to the ATV being unsuitable and the trailer too small.
18. Investing in a van for the Council would be a good asset to assist with the day to day activities of the maintenance staff but will also be useful for events and other services that the Council offer.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

19. None

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

20. Town Council Lengthsmen
21. David Fishwick
22. XLCR Vans

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Gina Langley