

**REPORT TO:** Policy and Performance Review Committee

**MEETING DATE:** 25 March 2014

**BY:** Depute Chief Executive - Partnerships and Community Services

**SUBJECT:** Electric Vehicle Evaluation

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## **1 PURPOSE**

- 1.1 This report provides the Committee with an opportunity to assess the use of electric vehicles within East Lothian Council fleet.

## **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 The Committee is requested to note the content of this report which forms a basis for discussion with regard to future provision of electric vehicles.

## **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 At the meeting on 26 November 2013 the committee asked for a report providing information to evaluate the use of the existing electric vehicles within the Council fleet.
- 3.2 The Council have leased three Nissan Leaf cars and purchased one Ford Azure Connect van between May 2011 and March 2012.
- 3.3 These vehicles were leased or purchased with the assistance of funds made available to local authorities by Transport Scotland. This money was allocated to bridge the gap between internal combustion engine vehicles and the electric version if a direct comparison was available.
- 3.4 The Nissan Leaf was not a direct match but Transport Scotland compared this with a Ford Focus 1.6 Style and Ford Azure Connect was a direct comparison with a Ford Connect. Leasing three Nissan Leaf electric vehicles would have had an annual leasing costs of £15431.28 due to the relatively high capital cost of the vehicles. Three Ford Focus cars would have had a total lease cost of £8036 per annum.

Transport Scotland offered additional funding of £7395.28 to cover the difference and offer incentives to promote the use of electric vehicles within the public sector including partnerships.

- 3.5 The Ford Azure Connect was purchased by East Lothian Council at a cost of £39005 and was part funded by Transport Scotland who funded the additional £28437 compared to the cost of a Ford Connect.
- 3.6 To date the vehicles have covered the mileage indicated in the table below and assuming that the vehicles were charged fully on each occasion the number of charges taken and the cost per charge is also shown.

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Reg. No.</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	<b>Miles/full charge</b>	<b>No. of charges</b>	<b>Cost per charge (18.56kw /charge) £</b>	<b>Total Cost £</b>
Nissan Leaf	SL11YBG	8956	103	87	2.04	177.48
Nissan Leaf	SL12LFZ	5254	103	51	2.04	104.04
Nissan Leaf	SL12LGO	5703	103	55	2.04	112.20
Ford Azure Connect	SN61CFJ	20931	85	246	2.04	501.84

- 3.7 Based on industry figures the equivalent diesel fuel cost for the four vehicles in the fleet would be:

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Reg. No.</b>	<b>Mileage</b>	<b>MPG</b>	<b>Gallons</b>	<b>Price/gallon £</b>	<b>Total Cost £</b>
Nissan Leaf	SL11YBG	8956	45	199	5.03	1000.97
Nissan Leaf	SL12LFZ	5254	45	117	5.03	588.51
Nissan Leaf	SL12LGO	5703	45	127	5.03	638.81
Ford Azure Connect	SN61CFG	20931	40	523	5.03	2630.69

- 3.8 The above figures clearly show the difference in fuel costs is greatly reduced for the electric vehicles. This could be further reduced if timers could be fitted to the charging units and this is being investigated currently.
- 3.9 For a member of the public a relative comparison based on assumed local mileage of 20,000 miles per year would be, at current prices;

<b>Vehicle</b>	<b>Capital Cost £</b>	<b>Straight line depreciation – 5 years £</b>	<b>Running cost/annum £</b>	<b>Annual vehicle cost £</b>
Nissan Leaf	25,000	5,000	396.12	5396.11
Ford Focus	16,095	3,219	2235.56	5454.56

- 3.10 East Lothian Council is in partnership with Edinburgh College who are carrying out an in depth study of the use of electric vehicles. This study includes Midlothian, Scottish Qualifications Authority and Edinburgh College who all operate electric vehicles. Edinburgh College also have access to the same information for a diesel powered car within East Lothian's fleet so a direct comparison can be made between the two types of vehicles. This report, when completed, can be made available to the Committee to provide further information.

#### **4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None

#### **5 EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 5.1 This report is not applicable to the well being of equalities groups and an Equalities Impact Assessment is not required.

#### **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Financial - None
- 6.2 Personnel - None
- 6.3 Other – None

#### **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

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