



DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	23 SEPTEMBER 2019	8
FULLY FUNDED ADDITION TO CAPITAL PROGRAMME – CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR ELECTRIC TAXIS			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

As part of a successful joint bid to the Department of Transport, led by Lancaster City Council, Fylde Council is due to receive £105,000 for the installation of 4 'Rapid' electric vehicle charging points to be used by taxis. It is proposed that these charging points will be spread around the Borough, located near to areas that are frequented by taxis or are on frequent routes between common destinations as advised by the taxi trade.

It is hoped that the provision of a charging network will encourage taxi companies and drivers to invest in electric vehicles which in turn will encourage the wider public to consider electric vehicles as a viable alternative to standard powered vehicles. As there will be negligible electric taxis in use in Fylde when the charging points are first installed the charging points will be opened to the public to use initially until such a time that sufficient electric taxis are operational in the local area, at which point the charging points will be restricted to be used by taxis only.

This matter was considered by the Operational Management Committee at the meeting held on 10th September 2019, which approved a request to the Finance and Democracy Committee for a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme in 2019/20 in this regard.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended:

1. To approve a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme for 2019/20 in the sum of £105,000 for the provision of taxi charging points, to be met by a grant from central government for this purpose in the same amount;
2. Subject to (1) above, to approve the expenditure of £105,000 for the provision of taxi charging points to an appointed contractor subject to appropriate procurement exercise being completed by Lancaster City Council in conjunction with associated district authorities.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

Public Protection Committee, 17 July 2019

Operational Management Committee, 10 September 2019

CORPORATE PRIORITIES	
Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

REPORT

1. In 2018 a grant bid opportunity via the Department for Transport's Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Round 2 Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Taxi Infrastructure Competition became available to seek funding for electric charging points for hackney carriages and private hire vehicles. Led by Lancaster City Council, six Lancashire authorities, including Fylde Council, South Ribble Council, Wyre Council, Rossendale Council and Burnley Council, came together to make a bid for a grant to provide charging infrastructure for electric taxis. This process included various officer-led discussions, surveys and presentations involving the taxi trade. The bid was successful and the six authorities were awarded £630,000 for the provision of 24 rapid charging points (the type most suitable for taxis, taking between 30 to 45 minutes to charge) across the 6 local authority areas. The formal grant offer was received on 9 April 2019.
2. To ensure that taxis are able to operate cross-boundary and use the charging infrastructure in other districts, a joint procurement exercise is currently being undertaken between all the districts involved in the original funding bid and led by Lancaster City Council. The procurement exercise will involve using an OJEU compliant NHS framework agreement for electric vehicle charging and a tender exercise with those companies on the framework is being undertaken. Part of the tender criteria includes a requirement that the selected contractor will contribute financially an additional 25% to meet external funding requirements taking the overall financial value of works in the Fylde Borough to £131,250. The selected contractor will undertake all relevant studies and work to install the charging infrastructure and then operate and maintain the charging points for a minimum of 10 years to a standard as set by the District Councils. The contractor will charge users an agreed amount to cover the cost of electric and on-going maintenance of the charging points. As there are currently no taxis registered with Fylde Council that are electric powered, when the 4 charging points are installed they will be open to the general public until such a time that the number of electric taxis reaches a pre-agreed amount at which time the charging points will be restricted for taxis only. There will be no on-going liability on Fylde Council or any other landowner where the charging points are located.
3. Members of the Finance and Democracy Committee are requested to approve a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme for 2019/20 in the sum of £105,000 for the provision of taxi charging points, to be funded by a grant from central government for this purpose in the same amount.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	The Committee are recommended to approve a fully-funded addition to the Capital Programme for 2019/20 in the sum of £105,000 for the provision of taxi charging points, to be funded by a grant from central government for this purpose in the same amount.
Legal	No implications arising from this report
Community Safety	No implications arising from this report
Human Rights and Equalities	No implications arising from this report
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	No implications arising from this report
Health & Safety and Risk Management	No implications arising from this report

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
Democracy	democracy@fylde.gov.uk	10/9/19

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
Operational Management	10/9/19	Report and Minutes