



# Review of LTC e-Vehicle

## Introduction

At their last meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023, the Services & Asset Management (SAM) Committee of Looe Town Council resolved to trial an electric vehicle for use by the Cleaning & Maintenance Supervisor for day-to-day tasks and by other team members needing to travel on Council business.

It was agreed that the suitability of such a vehicle would be reviewed after a period of three months and short-term hire of a Renault Kangoo e-van was arranged.

As delivery of the van was some time after SAM's decision, it was agreed at the inaugural meeting of the Services, Assets & Community Committee meeting that a review would be considered by Full Council on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023.

This paper sets out Officers' review of the suitability of the existing e-van and provides recommendations for alternative arrangements going forward as follows:

- 1 End short-term hire arrangement with Northgate Vehicle Hire to coincide with delivery of replacement vehicle**
- 2 Seek to buy or lease an electric utility vehicle for use by the Cleaning & Maintenance team, accepting that Officers will continue to use their own vehicles for any longer business-related journeys.**

Headline Costs for Comparison				
Vehicle Type	Example model	Purchase Price (OTR) from	Lease Price (per month)	Other Costs to be considered
Electric van	Renault Kangoo	£37,075	£274 +VAT	Charge point install
Hybrid petrol	Toyota Corolla	£24,550	£288 +VAT	Fuel est. 13ppm (Fuel-Economy.co.uk)
Electric utility* new	Cenntro pick-up / Beast Hisun	£25,495	£395 +VAT	Charge point install
Electric utility* used	Garia Utility 2020	£10,000	n/a	Charge point install Maintenance 2 <sup>nd</sup> hand
Petrol utility* (660cc)	Suzuki Carry (used) 2011	£6,000	n/a	Fuel est. 10ppm Maintenance 2 <sup>nd</sup> hand

\*NB – please note that utility vehicle would be for local transport only and not suitable for attending meetings or other council business.



## Review of Current Vehicle

A Renault Kangoo van was hired from Northgate Vehicle Hire which was delivered to us on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2023. The cost for this short-term lease is £25.28 per day plus vehicle insurance. It should be noted that this would be considerably less if a vehicle were to be procured on a longer term lease agreement (around £275 per month contract hire + insurance).

### **Use of the van has been somewhat limited during the period without a Cleaning & Maintenance Supervisor but it has been a benefit to the Council for:**

- Regular stocking up of consumables at toilet facilities;
- Transporting tools and equipment for maintenance tasks, and storing these in van so ready for future jobs;
- Saving time to get staff to and from Hannaford toilets;
- Moving resources and people during Food Festival;
- Safely disposing of Council waste
- No need for personal insurance/vehicle checks
- No additional expenditure for use of personal vehicles

### **We have also, however, had some issues with the e-van during this trial period, notably that:**

- Charging at the public facilities at Millpool car park is time-consuming and cumbersome – it is difficult to leave the vehicle charging as the service can drop out, and there is often the need to call the provider to end charging as their app is unreliable;
- The size of the vehicle does not fit through some of the narrower routes in Looe so use for some maintenance tasks is restricted to just getting equipment as close as possible rather than transport to the actual site;
- The local hilly terrain significantly affects the range of the electric vehicle so the number of miles shown on dashboard can only be considered an indicator of range;
- Range of the van is limited and, when charging is complete, has never been above 115 miles. This restricts its usefulness for attending any meetings or events in West Cornwall without finding another charging point on the way or at the destination;

The limitations of the e-van which we hired, have resulted in a high cost for the amount of use which we are practically able to get from the vehicle.

Delivery of vehicle	£ 30	
Hire cost for period 18 <sup>th</sup> August to 31 <sup>st</sup> October	£1,896	
Insurance (pro rata £573.80 per year)	<u>£ 118</u>	<b>£2,044</b>



It is, therefore recommended that we end the short-term hire agreement with Northgate Vehicle Hire as soon as alternative arrangements are in place for a replacement vehicle.

Officers recognise, however, that Councillors may wish to consider alternative e-vehicle options and with this in mind, the general pros and cons of electric vehicles are set out below along with details of grant funding available to install charging points.

### The Case for Electric Vehicles

Looe Town Council, like many other Councils in the UK have declared a climate emergency, and the Government's Road to Zero strategy has set an ambition that no new conventional petrol or diesel cars will be sold by 2035. Whilst electric vehicles still contribute to congestion in town centres, the Local Government Association (LGA) has recommended that Councils replace their own vehicles with electric alternatives as the opportunity arises.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) have also published a list of recommendations about what town and parish councils can do to address the climate crisis which includes using green energy sources and environmentally friendly products.

It is widely accepted that electric vehicles (EVs) will have lower running costs, are quieter, better for the environment and simpler to repair. National government policy is encouraging a transition away from internal combustion engines and towards ultra-low emission vehicles, including EVs, over the next 20 years. The LGA have set out some of the key reasons why many councils are promoting EVs and developing the charging infrastructure. These include:

- Less Air pollution – particularly effects on health
- Carbon reduction and climate change – 28% of UK greenhouse gas comes from transport
- Lower costs – EV's are cheaper to run and need less servicing than petrol/diesel
- Noise reduction

The [Energy Saving Trust](#) also points out that “switching to an electric van can lead to large savings on fuel while lowering your carbon and nitrogen dioxide emissions. This gives electric vans the potential to dramatically improve air quality, especially in urban areas.” They estimate the average cost per mile of an electric vehicle to be 4p compared to 13p for a similar petrol one. EV's also have no road tax, require less maintenance and, for the user, are easier to drive.



## Limitations of e-vehicles

- Mileage range and need to re-charge;
- Battery lifespan (warranty usually 6 years/100,000 miles);
- Local charging infrastructure;
- Speed of charging points;
- More expensive (although no road tax and lower running/maintenance costs);
- Environmental impact of battery pack manufacture;
- Availability of replacement parts.

## Grants Available

Grants are available through the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles' (OZEV) ([plug-in vehicle grant](#)) and the Energy Savings Trust (EST) (EV infrastructure grant) for small-to-medium-sized businesses in the UK.

The plug-in vehicle grant will pay for 35% of the purchase price of vehicles, up to a maximum of £2,500 for vans under 2.5 tonnes gross vehicle weight. These vehicles have CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of less than 50g/km and can travel at least 96km (60 miles) without any emissions at all.

The EST also offer a grant for [Business chargepoint funding](#) which covers up to 75% of the cost of installing the infrastructure needed for chargepoints to operate and for future chargepoints to be installed, as well as the cost of any chargepoints installed. There is a limit of £15,000 per grant and £350 per chargepoint socket installed.

Alternatively, the [Workplace Charging Scheme](#) offered by OZEV is a voucher-based scheme that provides eligible applicants with support towards the upfront costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargepoints. This grant covers up to 75% of the total costs of the purchase and installation of EV chargepoints (inclusive of VAT), capped at a maximum of £350 per socket.



## Hybrid Option

An alternative to a wholly electric vehicle is a hybrid which uses a petrol engine to re-charge the electric motor that drives the vehicle. This is a more environmentally friendly option than a traditional petrol or diesel and would be a good option for a van that could be used for longer trips on Council business as well as routine cleaning and maintenance tasks.

Such a van would, of course, have the same limitations with accessing parts of Looe as our existing vehicle and there are very few vans available as a hybrid. The only small van we have identified is the Toyota Corolla commercial which is fully hybrid. There is also not a huge choice of plug-in hybrid van options, with just two new van types currently on the market, both of which would be too large for our needs.

A fully hybrid vehicle has no need to be plugged in for charging and they, therefore, have a higher mileage range than all-electric. This does mean, however, that fuel costs need to be accounted for as well as the initial price of lease or purchase.

It should be noted also that the manufacture of hybrids is currently scheduled to end in 2035 in line with the production of new petrol and diesel vehicles. Advantages and Disadvantages of hybrid vehicles are set out in the table below:

<b>HYBRID VEHICLE</b>	
<b>Advantages*</b>	<b>Disadvantages*</b>
Lower emissions than petrol/diesel	Less power/acceleration than traditional
Less maintenance than traditional engines	Limited range of hybrid vans available
Mechanically simpler so most reliable vehicles by fuel type	Higher up-front cost than traditional engines and expensive to replace the battery
Less battery room = higher payload	Less environmentally friendly than all-electric
More fuel efficient than petrol/diesel so saves money on running costs	Higher insurance than petrol or diesel

\*Sources: RAC/CarPro/Pendlease/Parkers/Honda



## Utility Vehicle Options

The main need for a vehicle at LTC is for the routine supply of consumables to toilet sites and to transport tools, equipment and resources to carry out maintenance or to support events in the town. An alternative option for Council, therefore, is to buy or hire a Utility vehicle which is just used for these purposes and for local jobs.

There are several options for utility vehicles that would suit this purpose, both new and second hand. Please bear in mind, however, that we have no secure vehicle storage so we would need to acquire a vehicle with a secure, lockable cab and rear cargo area and, of course, it will need to be registered for use on public highways.

Use of such a vehicle would suit the 'green' agenda and be a valuable asset to our Cleaning & Maintenance team, as well as a useful resource for events in the town. We could add branding to the vehicle so that Looe Town Council is a more visible presence on a day-to-day basis around the town.

Such a utility vehicle would not, however, be practical for Officers to use for going on Council business outside of the town. They would therefore continue to use their own cars and claim mileage at the agreed HMRC rate. For information, in 2022/23 this cost the Council £150 (excluding payments to Business Development Officer and volunteers as separate arrangements) and, £137 in mileage allowance has been paid to date in this financial year.

Advantages and Disadvantages of electric UTV's are set out in the table below:

<b>ELECTRIC UTILITY TASK VEHICLE (UTV)</b>	
<b>Advantages*</b>	<b>Disadvantages*</b>
Economical to run	Insurance costs
Zero emissions	Potential delay for custom/suitable vehicle
Low maintenance needs and costs	Lower range than other vehicles (20 – 40 miles)
Suitable for hilly terrain and narrow roads	Cost/siting of charging point to be considered

Some possible utility vehicles are shown overleaf, both new and second hand options (including a used petrol machine) for comparison purposes.



## ABOUT ELECTRIC UTVs

### Why should I choose an electric utv over a diesel-powered machine? ▲

Here are our top five reasons to choose electric for your UTV vehicle:

**They're powerful** – all of our vehicles boast powerful performance-driven features and can tackle tasks with ease. Choose one of our 4x4 models for all-terrain capability or a 2WD model for turf-friendly driving.

**Zero carbon emissions** – reduce your carbon footprint and go electric.

**Economical to run** – charging up your electric UTV for a full day's work can cost as little as £3, that's approximately 10 times less than a full tank of a diesel powered machine.

**Less maintenance** – with fewer parts to service, maintenance costs are kept to a minimum.

**Smooth, quiet ride** – our automatic vehicles make acceleration smoother and the overall driving experience much quieter.

### What is the difference between an ATV and UTV? ▲

ATVs are small all terrain vehicles that are usually made for one rider. They typically do not have an enclosed cab and may also be described as a quad bike or open buggy. A UTV is a utility task vehicle that is a larger type of ATV and has side by side seating. It is designed to carry heavier loads and also has additional seating. All of our UTVs have a roof and cargo bed, along with other similar features you'd find in a car such as a dashboard, steering wheel and foot pedals.

### Is an electric UTV powerful enough to tackle different terrains and surfaces? ▲

Absolutely. We're proud of our range of all-terrain models with capacity to tackle impressive inclines, muddy fields and low-level water.



### THE CENNTRO

COMPACT & PRACTICAL ALL-ELECTRIC PICK-UP

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RESERVE ONLINE WITH NOTHING TO PAY TODAY.

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#### The Centro Electric Pick-up Truck

The Centro electric pick-up truck is available for both short- and long-term business and event hire. A popular choice as an all-electric delivery vehicle ideal for local councils, distribution centres, warehouses, facilities management, university campuses and on-site logistics.

The Centro is designed for short distance transportation of goods. Perfect for local delivery services in commercial environments. The Centro is rear wheel drive and navigates confined areas with ease.

Choose from either a pickup or box-style cargo bed depending on your delivery needs. This practical all-electric van has the capacity to transport anything from small packages to trade tools and equipment.



#### The Beast@ HiSun Sector – Two Seater

The HiSun Sector Lithium-ion Beast@ 2-seater 4x4 UTV has the power to do more with uncompromised capability and performance from its powerful 375kW motor, powered by a 16.5kWh lithium-ion battery.

Selected Model (click to change)

The Beast@ HiSun Sector – Two Seater

The Beast@ HiSun Sector – Four Seater

Base Price £25,495.00 + VAT

1x The Beast@ HiSun Sector - Two Seater £25,495.00

UK road registration - UK road registered £100.00

Windscreen - Inc. Glass Windscreen -

Extras - Lockable Cab £3,300.00

Extras - Rear Canopy £895.00

Subtotal £29,790.00 + VAT

**Note:** NO PAYMENT DUE TODAY. Complete checkout to reserve your vehicle. No payment details or a deposit required. This vehicle is subject to availability which will be confirmed by email within 1 working day of your order request.





## SECOND HAND VEHICLE OPTIONS



### Garia Utility

City Electric Vehicle  
2020 (69 reg)

**£9,995 +VAT**

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2020 Garia Utility City Electric Vehicle with Paneltex insulated box body. 2,361 miles/165 hours. 1 Owner. 200Ah 48V Lithium battery. 1,905mm body. Range approx 72km. Heated windscreen. Choice. , 12 months MOT, Excellent bodywork, Interior - Excellent Condition, Tyre condition Excellent, 4x2, White, 1 owner, £9,995. Vehicle registered: 01/02/2020



JCF1531

2011 Suzuki Carry 660cc

### Suzuki Carry

Automatic box van ULEZ FREE 0.7  
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Imported vehicle

**£177** per month (CS) →

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★★★★★ 4.9 (310 reviews)

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JCF1531) Another Beautiful Suzuki Carry Box Van just arrived. Excellent condition Automatic Ulez Free. \*ALL TAX AND DUTIES PAID AND FULLY UK REGISTERED\* PART EXCHANGE WELCOME & FINANCE AVAILABLE \*\* Call for more info. Visit us at JAPCARFINDER.CO.UK for more car choice and directions. Our post code is BD3 8HW , Clean bodywork, Grey Cloth interior - Excellent Condition, Tyre condition Good, Short wheel-base, Solid White, 1 owner, Finace available on all cars, We open 9 till 6 Monday to Friday and 10 till 5 on Saturdays., £5,995 PETROL AUTOMATIC. Vehicle registered: 01/09/2011





## Conclusions and Recommendations

Whilst Looe Town Council is committed to reducing its carbon footprint, the trial of an electric van has proven costly and demonstrated that it is difficult to find a vehicle which suits the multiple needs of our small organisation.

The key reason for a Council vehicle is to support the Cleaning & Maintenance Supervisor and team in their daily tasks so that equipment, consumables and sometimes people can be transported easily between our sites. This results in more efficiency for our cleaning team as well as an improved ability to respond to any complaints or urgent repair needs more promptly.

The narrow roads in Looe also cause an issue for a traditional vehicle to access some areas and a smaller solution would better suit our maintenance needs. This conflicts with the desire to have a vehicle that could be used by Officers when attending meetings or events off site when a more powerful vehicle with greater range is needed.

Purchase or hire of a hybrid van would provide a vehicle better able to provide transport around Cornwall or further afield as well as stocking up toilets and transporting equipment. However, it would not overcome the issue of accessing the narrow streets of Looe and the choice of small hybrid vans on the market is also extremely limited which could reflect a lack of demand for this 'interim' solution while we transition from traditional fuels to electric vehicles.

My recommendation, therefore, is that we seek to buy or lease an electric utility vehicle for use by the Cleaning & Maintenance team, accepting that Officers will continue to use their own vehicles for any longer business-related journeys.

Karen Vaughan, Deputy Clerk

25<sup>th</sup> October 2023