

Response to Request for Information

Reference FOI 002476
Date 2 July 2018

Electric Vehicles

Request:

- 1) Does the local authority have a procurement plan for Electric or other low emission vehicles with a view to replace its current fleet of vehicles with low emission alternatives?

Though no dedicated plan exists for Wolverhampton in isolation, and no public charge points have been installed by the authority to date, the Council has been taking the necessary steps to introduce electric vehicle charge points across the whole of the city.

Since December 2015, work has been conducted to establish the grounds for public and taxi charging infrastructure within the city centre.

Within this time, Wolverhampton Council has successfully bid for a government grant of approximately £480,000 of funding through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) to deliver public and taxi charging infrastructure into the City by late 2018.

Alongside this, Wolverhampton Council is currently working closely with Black Country colleagues to develop market research on the public demand and perception of electric vehicles and electric vehicle charge points.

This work will help to identify demand for on-street residential charging, whilst informing future policy decisions that will help to accelerate adoption of electric vehicles, including bidding for future funding opportunities.

The above supports the 2017 Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy (ULEV) which predicates a sub-regional vision to encourage the uptake of electric vehicles, including the installation of electric vehicle charge points across each of the 4 authorities.

Further to this, Wolverhampton Council has also been enforcing the Black Country's 2016 Air Quality supplementary planning policy which stipulates that new residential and commercial developments above certain thresholds should include the provision of electric vehicle charging points.

- 2) Does the local authority have a plan in place to build increase Electric Vehicle charging points in the local authority area?

The Council's overarching Policy is that it endeavours to replace vehicles with the most environment friendly option available at the time; where practicable. Due to the daily duty cycle of fleet vehicles, the nature of their operations and the varying types of vehicle that the Council operates, there is limited opportunity to introduce electrically powered or hybrid vehicles at this point in time. Further to this the Council currently does not have the necessary charging infrastructure within its depots to support large scale adoption of electrically powered vehicles, even if vehicles were available to suit its needs. That said, the Council actively trials electric vehicles in the operational arena that it would expect them to work. For example, the Council has operated a Nissan Leaf with limited success due to the charge cycle requirement impacting on operational efficiency.

The time range I am interested in is for each of the three years 2015, 2016, 2017.