

Force Response to the Public Question from the PAM Meeting on 19th March 2024

Question from Mr N Curtis:

“Can you please provide a progress update from the commitment in your Plan to introduce 10 alternate fuel vehicles per year and to develop the Forces electric vehicle charging infrastructure.”

The Force Response to the Public Question:

In 2019 Lincolnshire Police committed to the introduction of alternatively fuelled vehicles where they were considered fit for purpose and financially viable. Since then, twenty-four all electric vehicles have been added to the fleet, predominantly in local CID, PCSO and Pool car roles. These roles have been considered the most suitable for alternatively fuelled vehicles. Twenty-four vehicles represents approximately 6% of the forces total fleet and is one of the highest percentages of alternative fuelled vehicles in any UK police force.

More recently hybrid vehicles have been introduced to the Lincolnshire Police response fleet as these are seen as being suitable for the demands required of a fully liveried response vehicle that may have to drive long distances and is required 24 hours per day. By the middle of 2024 there will be 26 hybrid powered response vehicles on the Lincolnshire Police vehicle fleet.

Due to the impacts of COVID and the availability of suitable vehicles, there has not been an exact addition of 10 alternate fuel vehicles per year, however in total over a 5 year period we will have added fifty alternatively fuelled vehicles to the fleet.

As existing fleet vehicles reach their replacement criteria, alternatively fuelled vehicles are always considered first, however, the primary priority for any emergency service vehicle is that it must be fit for purpose.

Regarding EV charging infrastructure, the Force started these installations for fleet in 2018 with 12 x 7kw charging points and grew this in 2020 by a further 18 x 7kw. We currently have charging points at Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham, HQ, Louth, Skegness, Sleaford, and Spalding. 10 points have currently been installed for staff vehicles at HQ however there is ongoing work to make these operational.

We have £200k proposed for the 2024/25 capital programme and a further £320k split across 25/26, 26/27 and 27/28, some of this will be used to upgrade our electrical infrastructure to allow us to deploy faster chargers for the operational fleet.