

**LOW CARBON VEHICLES IN THE DELIVERY OF PUBLIC
SERVICES REVIEW 2011/12: EXPENDITURE IN SUPPORT OF
THE POLICY REVIEW**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Strategic Priorities: SP5 Attractive and Inclusive City

**Corporate Priorities: CIO1: Delivering Customer Focused Services, CIO4:
Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 For the Committee to retrospectively agree expenditure of the Scrutiny Committee's dedicated budget in support of its policy review; Low Carbon Vehicles in the Delivery of Public Services.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee budgets may be allocated in support of the work of the Committee as set out in the following extracts from the Constitution. The Contract Procedure Rules must also be followed where these apply.
- 2.2 Overview and scrutiny committees may:

Art 6 – Articles of the Constitution

- i. review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the executive and/or committees and council officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- ii. review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- iii. question members of the executive and/or committees and chief officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- iv. make recommendations to the executive and/or appropriate committee and or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- v. review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the

overview and scrutiny committee and local people about their activities and performance; and

- vi. question and gather evidence from any person (with their consent).

Part 4 – Rules of Procedure

2.3 Policy Review and Development (10);

(c) Scrutiny Committees may hold enquiries and investigate the available options for future direction in policy development and may appoint advisers and assessors to assist them in this process. They may go to site visits, conduct public surveys, hold public meetings, commission research and do all other things that they reasonably consider necessary to inform their deliberations. They may ask witnesses to attend to address them on any matter under consideration and may pay to any advisers, assessors and witnesses a reasonable fee and expenses for doing so. Provided that all of the foregoing shall be contained within the budget made available to each Scrutiny Committee.

Low Carbon Vehicles in the Delivery of Public Services: Policy Review 2011-12

2.4 The overall aim of the Scrutiny Committee's Policy Review is to consider the city's current and future plans for the utilisation of low carbon vehicles in the delivery of public services. The aim is supported by the following terms of reference:-

- (d) To explore the financial and non-financial future implications of the increased use of low carbon vehicles in the delivery of council services; and
- (e) To consider appropriate targets for the introduction of electric vehicles into the council's fleet.

3. CURRENT POSITION

3.1 The Committee are asked to retrospectively agree the use of its dedicated budget to commission Cenex to undertake a detailed and expert analysis of the potential for the council to adopt electric vehicles into its fleet.

3.2 An outline proposal has been prepared by Cenex for Sunderland City Council for the provision of an initial electric vehicle replacement analysis, with the aim of showing the ownerships costs and environmental benefits of operating electric vehicles within the council's fleet operations.

- 3.3 By commissioning Cenex the Scrutiny Committee will be in a considerably strengthened position to fulfil its terms of reference and make recommendations to Cabinet based on robust evidence.
- 3.4 Cenex is an independent, not for profit company. It is a leading independent expert in understanding the market opportunities for low carbon vehicles and fuels, as well as the practical measures required to aid market transformation. It runs a number of high profile programmes in the UK including the Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Programme and the UK Infrastructure Grant Programme.
- 3.5 It is proposed that Cenex use its fleet carbon reduction tool to identify costs and environmental benefits of operating electric powered cars and 3.5 tonne vans within the council's fleet operation. It will undertake a host of analysis which will include drive cycle creation; payload profile; vehicle and drivetrain model creation; and simulation and analysis.
- 3.6 This analysis will be presented to the Scrutiny Committee in February 2012, and will be utilised as part of the wider evidence gathered by the Committee to finalise the Policy Review Final Report and for conclusions and recommendations to Cabinet in June 2012.
- 3.7 The overall cost of undertaking this work is £5000. It is proposed that the Scrutiny Committee and the City Services directorate share this cost. The total cost therefore, to the Scrutiny Committee's dedicated budget will be £2,500.

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Committee is asked to retrospectively agree the proposal to engage the services of Cenex in support of the policy review, to be funded from the budget of the Scrutiny Committee.

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