
CIVIC CAR REPLACEMENT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the current situation regarding the condition of the Civic Car and to put forward proposals for a replacement car.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 At the meeting of Extraordinary Council on 22 November 2000, Members discussed the way in which the Civic Chauffeuring function should be carried out. The opinion was that employing a Civic Chauffeur was preferable to outsourcing service to a private hire car company.
- 2.2 At the meeting of the Member Budget Monitoring Sub-Committee on 7 February 2001 (Minute 132) it was agreed to recruit a part-time Civic Chauffeur on Scale 1. This would be the sole duty and would only be paid for the hours worked on an "as and when required" basis.

3 CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 A Civic Chauffeur has been in post as per the conditions detailed in Section 2.2 above with the current post holder providing an extremely good service, receiving positive feedback from both the Chairman of the Council and staff.
- 3.2 The issue that exists at present is around the condition and reliability of the Civic Car, which is an F registered Ford Granada.
- 3.3 During the past months there have been an increasing number of faults with the car that has had a detrimental effect on the reliability of the Civic Chauffeur service.
- 3.4 These faults have included a new gearbox and the current problem related to the petrol pump. Although repaired, there is still a smell of petrol in the car that the garage has effectively put down to its age. If the car were to be retained, there are re-spraying works to be undertaken. Last year £1537 was spent on repairs to the car and so far this year, £283 has been spent.
- 3.5 Whilst the car is being used, this is only for the shorter local journeys, due to concerns over its reliability and for longer journeys the Council has had to hire a vehicle.

4 REPLACEMENT PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Within this years capital programme, there is an allocation of £22,000 for the replacement of the Civic Car and it is proposed that this replacement is now undertaken.
- 4.2 Prices have been obtained for a suitable replacement car using the criteria of a British mark, Black in colour and of an appropriate size and quality.
- 4.3 Quotations have been obtained on suitable cars however the recommended replacement would be for a Rover 75.
- 4.4 This model provides a high standard of finish including many features as standard, such as air-conditioning, automatic transmission and leather upholstery.
- 4.5 The on the road price of the Rover 75 2.0k connoisseur SE would be £22,280 plus VAT.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The existing car is beyond its economic life and needs replacing. The recommended Rover comes with a 3 year/60,000 mile warranty. As mentioned earlier in the report the existing car can only be used for local journeys and a hire car has had to be used for longer engagements thereby increasing costs.
- 5.2 The Council considers leasing options where appropriate but usually the length of time that we retain a vehicle works against this being a cost effective option. The current Civic car has been in service since 1989. Therefore it is recommended that this car be purchased and can be met from the provision within the capital programme.

6 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RESOLVES**
- 6.2 the purchase of a replacement Civic Car within the budget parameters set.

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Background Papers:

None

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