

Cabinet Meeting: Monday, 04 August 2025

Question from: Councillor Blagbrough

Question to: Councillor Dacre, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources

QUESTION

According to the Council's Capital Programme, £5.4 million has been allocated for a "General Fleet Upgrade". Given the significant cost, it is concerning that no public information appears to be available about the nature or scope of these plans. Can the Cabinet clarify what this fleet upgrade entails and provide details on how this expenditure will be funded.

Response

The information is contained in the Cabinet Report of 10th February 2025 on the Capital Investment Strategy, paragraphs 5.21-5. Cabinet recommended the approval of the Strategy to Full Council. It was approved at Full Council on 12th February 2025.

The Council operate a fleet of vehicles to enable the delivery of services across a wide range of duties and responsibilities, including Home to School Transport, Adult Social Care Transport, Highways Maintenance, Street Cleansing and Parks and Open Spaces.

Our vehicles have a finite useful life, when breakdowns and cost of repair impact on service delivery and value for money. Therefore, it is necessary to have a programme of fleet replacement as part of our capital investment strategy. The budget of £5.4m over the next few years, reflects when new vehicles will be required.

The fleet consists of 200 vehicles in total and 108 of these vehicles are approaching the end of their working life over the next 5 years. The majority of the 108 vehicles identified for renewal are in the SEND Home to School Transport service and Green Spaces and Street Scene services. The off-going fleet vehicles will be 10 years old or more.

The Capital Programme currently assumes that the financing source will be borrowing, and this is reflected in the budget and medium-term financial plan.