

**CENTRAL SWINDON NORTH PARISH COUNCIL**

**28<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

**1. Introduction**

This report further considers the points raised in F&S February 2018 and the Full Council meeting in March 2018 as to the wider transportation needs of the Parish.

Central Swindon North Parish is a predominately urban area, covering a wide range of dispersed assets in all neighbourhoods. The Parish is well served with N/S & E/W inter-Parish road links; however they can become congested during peak times serving town wide traffic to and from the Town Centre. In addition the Parish, whilst relatively compact, is severed by arterial routes making cycling/walking on occasions difficult.

To transverse from North to South and West to East the estimated distance is between 2.5-3.5 miles.

Vehicles are an expensive long term resource and careful consideration should be given to both the one off capital cost but also the ancillary revenue costs associated with running the vehicles such as VED, MOT, and Servicing/Fuel.

Authority has to date been agreed to purchase one vehicle; a Ford Connect L2 long Wheel base Van for the principal use of the Parish Allotment Officer. This vehicle is due for delivery in April 2018.

In addition a smaller 'pool' vehicle has been considered which would allow Parish Officers to attend meetings/appointments in other areas of the Parish without the need to use public transport, cycle/walk or use their own cars for essential use.

## 2 Report Details

Councillors have asked the Parish Manager to consider an options appraisal. There are four principal options to consider. For the purposes of illustration prices are based on a 'Mercedes-Benz Citan Compact Diesel Van'.

- i. The purchase of a 'Pool Vehicle'.
- ii. The lease of a 'Pool Vehicle'.
- iii. To provide Parish Officers with the NJC Essential Car Users allowance to utilise their own vehicle for work purposes.
- iv. Officers utilise taxis and busses.

i. Pool Vehicle Purchase

The purchase of the above spec vehicle would be approximately **£14,515** OTR which includes a standard warranty. Insurance, VED, servicing & MOT would incur additional costs. It is estimated these costs would be **£350** per annum in the first years minimum. After this time it is difficult to estimate.

ii. Lease Pool Vehicle Purchase

To lease a vehicle of the above spec would cost approximately £160pm or £1,920pa over a 3 year period. **£5,760** over the life of the agreement. This would include all costs excluding Fuel. Mileage would be capped at an agreed rate. Additional mileage would incur a levy at the end of the agreement if the Council returned the vehicle. There is an option of a 'balloon' payment at the end of the agreement if the Council wishes to buy the vehicle.

iii. Provide Officers with the NJC Essential Car Users Allowance

This is a cash sum agreed as part of NJC terms which pays Local Authority Officers, who require a vehicle as part of their job, an allowance to cover the 'wear and tear' on a personal vehicle such as tyres. Current costs are listed below and correlate to the engine size of the staff vehicles. If you assume the median engine size banding, five parish officers are entitled to the allowance and each holds an annual base mileage of 2,000 miles per annum (166 miles per month) this would calculate as:

£933 Lump Sum **£4,665pa** and **£4,090** in annual fuel claims. Totalling **£8,755**. The Lump Sum can be subject to review & RPI consideration.

	<b>Local Government NJC Essential User Allowance</b>		
Engine capacity	<b>451 - 999cc</b>	<b>1000 - 1199cc</b>	<b>1200 - 1450cc</b>
Lump sum	£846	£963	£1,239
per mile first 8,500	36.9p	40.9p	50.5p
per mile after 8,500	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p

- iv. Parish Officers could be issued with Thamesdown Transport Annual Passes. Assuming five parish officers are eligible for the passes. The annual cost is £740 per pass, subject to rises as specified by the private management company. **Cost £3,700**. Taxis could be used where bus transport isn't possible such as when busses stop running after 21.30 or when it may be unsafe for officers to wait at bus stops. Assuming two trips per month for five officers at £10 per trip would be £1,200. The estimate annual cost for the Public Transport option is **£4,900**.

### Recommendation

3. Given the complexities of managing a vehicle and the uncertainty over the longer term vehicular needs of the Council, Councillors are requested to consider option 2(i) to lease a small van to be used as a 'pool vehicle' and kept in the Pinetrees Compound overnight.

