

Question: CQ17.01&02

Cabinet – 5 October 2021

Re: Agenda item 17 – Transition to a low-carbon fleet

Question submitted by: Councillor Lily Fitzgibbon

I note that while this item is called 'transition to a low-carbon fleet', the only new commitment here is to purchase £3 million worth of fossil fuels.

Out of the 89 new vehicles that are currently being purchased, 77 are "mild hybrid electric vehicles". Unlike a fully hybrid vehicle, MHEVs do not have an electric-only mode of propulsion which means the Council will need to use petrol or diesel to run these vehicles throughout their service lifetime.

Question:

1. Assuming that the reason they have been chosen over fully electric alternatives is cost (although please correct me if not), what is the difference in purchase costs, running costs and carbon emissions between MHEVs and fully electric vehicles?
2. How is the intention to purchase new fossil fuel dependent vehicles compatible with Bristol Council's target to have zero direct emissions in four years' time, and the city's target of going carbon neutral by 2030?