

General Licensing Committee Meeting	
Meeting Date	2nd October 2018
Report Title	OLEV grant for ULEV taxis and LoCASE
Cabinet Member	Cllr Mike Cosgrove, Cabinet Member for Regeneration
SMT Lead	Mark Radford
Head of Service	Della Fackrell, Resilience & Licensing Manager
Lead Officer	Della Fackrell, Resilience & Licensing Manager
Key Decision	No
Classification	Open
Recommendations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members to support the Council progressing with the Expression of Interest to the Office for Low Emission Vehicle (OLEV) grant for Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) taxis 2. Members to note the Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) made available to Swale taxis.

1 Purpose of Report and Executive Summary

- 1.1 To update members on the OLEV grant that Kent County Council is progressing that will enable additional charging points to be 75% financed with potential for additional funds to be applied for.
- 1.2 To update members on the LoCASE grants that are being made available directly to taxi drivers to encourage them to purchase ULEV taxis.

2 Background

Office for Low Emission Vehicle (OLEV) grant for Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) taxis

- 2.1 In April 2014 the Office for Low Emission Vehicles announced a £20 million scheme for an ultra-low emission taxi charge point infrastructure. £14 million was awarded to 10 local authorities in 2017 to provide infrastructure for ultra-low emission taxis across the UK. This second round competition is now available to other local authorities who can bid for the remaining £6 million.
- 2.2 KCC have outlined the following criteria for their consideration for funding:
 - 2.2.1 Ambition/Impact [25%] – we will reward those local authorities who go further in their plans for transforming fleets of taxis and private hire vehicles in their area. This could incorporate planned reviews or changes to licensing arrangements –

or evidence of thought about long term change, beyond 2020. We will take into account what proposals the bid makes to drive the transition to ULEV taxis and the degree to which it will achieve the ultra-low emission taxi scheme's policy objectives, as stated at the beginning of the document.

- 2.2.2 Deliverability [25%] – we want to award funding to those areas which have already made progress in getting key local decision makers on board and/or actions in hand – evidencing wide support for the measures which an ultra-low emission taxi scheme would introduce into the area. This includes engagement with local taxi and private hire companies, with evidence of their sign-up.
- 2.2.3 Value for Money [25%] – those areas of the bid which demonstrate maximisation of any funding will be rewarded. This could be done by the local authority itself match funding a greater contribution than the 25% minimum requirement or leveraging other sources of funding.
- 2.2.4 Air Quality [25%] – we would like local authorities to indicate how the introduction of an ultra-low emission taxi scheme in their area would help to combat specific air quality issues. In this bid, we want to see demonstration of how LAs will further current and future local air quality strategies including analysis of a mix of Euro emissions standards in the fleet and air quality monitoring data.
- 2.3 KCC have stated with regard to the potential of 25% match funding, we do not need to commit funding at the EOI stage and KCC may be able to cover this through a separate bid. The commercial providers of charging points may also cover the cost if we allow them a revenue share of any new infrastructure. KCC will look into this during the next stage and we will be able to drop out of the process if we find that it is not viable.

Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE)

- 2.4 The Low Carbon Across the South East Programme is funded by the European Regional Development Fund Competitiveness Programme 2014 – 2020. It is a partnership between Kent County Council, East Sussex County Council, Essex County Council, Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, Thurrock Council and the University of Brighton.
- 2.5 The Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) programme can now assist financially by offering match funded grants up to a value of £20,000. The intervention rate is 60/40 meaning that LoCASE will cover 40% of the cost of any potential electric and hybrid vehicles which they may be looking to purchase.
- 2.6 The funding is available to both Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicles looking to make the move from petrol/diesel to the new hybrid and electric vehicles that are becoming ever more mainstream and viable, both in terms of affordability and range (mileage).

- 2.7 The parameters and criteria put in place broadly align with the Government Plug-In Grant for the range of 'green' vehicles and is set to offer a further incentive to move away from traditional diesel vehicles to cleaner and less-polluting models.
- 2.8 The time is right to challenge the way in which we conduct our business, reducing the impacts related to our travel is key. Reduced tax liabilities (road tax and capital allowances) as well as congestion charge and fuel spend can often tip the balance when weighing up options.
- 2.9 This information has been passed to all drivers and operators with details of the KCC officer that is leading on this project. A verbal update on the potential uptake in the borough of this grant will be given at the Committee meeting.
- 2.10 Frequently asked questions for this grant are attached at **Appendix I**.

3 Proposals

Office for Low Emission Vehicle (OLEV) grant for Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) taxis

- 3.1 Members are asked to note and support the progression of the Expression of Interest to Kent County Council.

Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE)

- 3.2 Members are asked to note and support the promotion of this scheme to Swale taxi drivers and operators.

4 Alternative Options

- 4.1 Members could choose not to take part in the expression of interest.

5 Consultation Undertaken or Proposed

- 5.1 It is not proposed that Swale Borough Council will undertake a consultation but Kent County Council may undertake a consultation at a later stage.

6 Implications

Issue	Implications
Corporate Plan	Supporting these two grants will align with the objectives of the corporate plan: A Borough to be proud of.

Financial, Resource and Property	There are no direct financial implications for Swale Council concerning this matter at present. However, if at any time in the future there was a requirement for Swale Borough Council to match fund 25% then this would be taken forward through Cabinet.
Legal and Statutory	None
Crime and Disorder	None
Environmental Sustainability	There are clearly Environmental advantages to progressing with these grants so they are being progressed in conjunction with Environmental Health and Climate Change officers.
Health and Wellbeing	As above
Risk Management and Health and Safety	None
Equality and Diversity	None
Privacy and Data Protection	Normal data protection and privacy rules will apply.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 The following documents are to be published with this report and form part of the report:
- Appendix I: LoCASE Ultra Low Emissions Funding – FAQ

8 Background Papers

- 8.1 None