

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Why has the Council decided to consult on introducing Electric Vehicles to the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Fleet?

In Hertfordshire we have the second worst air quality after London based on vehicle ownership. One of the ways in which we can improve local air quality is by moving over to electric vehicles. Electric vehicles do not release pollution at point of use

Bad air quality has been identified as a leading cause of ill health and premature death.

Will the purchase of an electric vehicle be more expensive than purchasing a conventional vehicle?

The initial outlay for the purchase would be more expensive; however this would be offset by the savings in fuel.

For example;

The Nissan Leaf costs from £21,000 Nissan will provide a 'at home charger' with the purchase.

The Nissan e-NV200 Combi ranges from £20,000

A £5,000 plug-in car grant is available through the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), to which a £3,000 'top-up' grant can be added. The same OLEV plug-in grant is also available for private hire drivers..

How much will it cost to charge my vehicle at home?

Charging an electric car at home costs about £3.00 for a full charge or 2p per mile. Average overnight electricity rate is 10p per kWh, which means charging your car for as little as 2p per mile. Fully charging a 30kW Nissan LEAF will cost about £3.00 and give you about 150 miles of range.

What else is being done at the Council to contribute to reducing air pollution?

The Council will be introducing an anti-idling campaign in the Spring to encourage drivers to switch off their engines when they are stationary. Leaving your vehicles engine running creates 20 times more pollution than if you were driving at 30mph.

In the last few years people have become more aware of the effects of air pollution on their health and wellbeing. Air pollution arises from a number of different sources and can be natural or manmade. The Legal, Democratic & Regulatory Services Department plays an important role in measuring air pollution and this measurement has now been carried out over many years.

Where are the chargers in the St Albans district?

There is one rapid charger located at Adelaide Street which is solely allocated for taxis to use.

More information on electric cars, existing charging points, grants and subsidies, and how to pay for charging is available on the council's website at;

<http://www.stalbans.gov.uk/transport-and-streets/electricvehicles.aspx>

Why will you hold forums?

The reason for holding forums will be to listen to any concerns and ideas about the proposals. We are keen to work with you in partnership. We hope this will be an opportunity for us all to come together to find positive solutions that will improve the air quality in St Albans. It will also allow us to showcase electric vehicles to the trade.

Who will make the formal decision about having electric vehicles in the taxi fleet?

Your responses from the consultation will be reported to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, whose membership is made up of elected Councillors, and supported by officers. They will consider all responses and make the final decision whether to revise the policy.

I have one of the existing 126 Hackney Carriage saloon vehicles does this mean I will have to purchase a wheelchair accessible vehicle?

No you will be allowed to replace your existing saloon vehicle with an electric saloon vehicle