

## Report of the Strategic Director

**GREEN NUMBER PLATES**1. Purpose of report

To advise Members of progress with the introduction of Green Number Plates, a key action identified as part of the Transport and Fleet Strategy which will assist in enabling the Council to achieve net carbon zero by 2027.

2. Background

In July 2019 the Council recognised that climate change was one of the most important issues we face not just locally but also nationally and worldwide. To respond to this challenge, the Council declared a climate change emergency and in September 2020 adopted the Climate Change and Green Futures programme.

The Green Futures programme identifies 15 strands, with each section providing context in terms of what has been achieved and what actions are required for the future. Two of the strategies Fuel and Transport and Fleet which have been adopted contain a series of key strategic actions that will enable the Council to deliver its carbon neutral target.

This report provides an update on Action 9 of the Transport and Fleet Strategy the introduction of Green Number Plates details of which are provided in the appendix.

3. Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Recommendation**

**The committee is asked to NOTE the progress of introducing Green Number Plates one of the 9 key objectives within the Transport and Fleet Strategy.**

Background papers

Nil

## APPENDIX

**Green Number Plates****1.0 Why Green Plates?**

Within the Transport Strategy one of the key actions is a commitment to introduce Green Number Plates. This is a UK government initiative that will enable residents and stakeholders to differentiate vehicles whose carbon footprint is low or negligible based on their environmental impact or tailpipe emissions.

Recently (18/11/20) the Prime Minister has given a commitment to cease the sales of petrol and diesel cars and vans from 2030.

Sales of pure electric cars are on the increase and zero emissions electric cars and vans accounted for 2.7% of all new registrations in January 2020, a significant rise from below 1% in 2019.

In May 2020 the total number of pure electric cars on UK roads has reached nearly 120,000.

The government considers that the introduction of Green Number Plates will help to boost this number enabling emission reduction targets to be achieved.

**2.0 Green Number Plates**

Nationally number plates are a way of identifying vehicles and are allocated to vehicles as part of the registering process.

To prepare for the mass adoption of electric vehicles and to encourage residents to move to low emission vehicles the UK Government has developed Green Number Plate Plan a scheme that will enable manufacturers and users to differentiate low emission vehicles as a way of raising awareness and identifying the revolution that is taking place in road transport.

Green Number Plates will only be eligible to be displayed by vehicles whose tailpipe emissions are zero; this means that they will be either full battery electric or hydrogen.

The government has indicated that the display of Green Number Plates will not be mandatory and for those electric vehicles already registered a retrofit scheme will be available enabling Green Number Plates to be fitted.

The Council currently has within its transport fleet two ultra-low electric vans (ULEV's) and with the adoption of this report it is proposed to re-plate the vans with Green Number Plates providing an example of Council leadership to our residents encouraging the shift to cleaner vehicles.

### 3.0 The Plates

Front plate:



Rear plate:



The design and consultation process for identifying green number plates was launched by the Department of Transport in June 2020. The consultation identified that the preferred option would involve a green flash on the left hand side of the plate and a sample of the front and rear plates are shown in the diagram above.