

How to achieve more from your small business vehicles

Discover the secrets of efficient and cost-effective company cars.

The costs associated with acquiring and running cars or vans can seem high, particularly for a smaller business, and especially when cash flow continues to be the ongoing management priority. This new series of advice and guidance articles could help you save money and reveal how your business can realise further benefits from your company vehicles.

Unsurprisingly, running costs topped the list of fleet managers' concerns in the last fleeteye review, conducted in association with The University of Buckingham. But it's also important to recognise that it's not just money issues that trouble the small business owner or manager. The many questions around which vehicles to choose, funding choices and coping with seemingly open-ended fuel budgets can become increasingly complex the more you look into them. Add to that other pressing factors such as remaining compliant with changing legal and taxation rules, managing employee risk and safety, even addressing environmental concerns: the list of things keeping SME owners and managers awake at night just gets longer.



Over the coming articles, we'll be debunking some of the myths, revealing the approaches and solutions that can save you money, and explaining how, with the right vehicles and policy, you can achieve more from your fleet – for your business and for your drivers.

We'll be looking at the financial perspective from various angles including how to make sense of the plethora of vehicle finance options available; how to minimise fuel expenditure (still the second biggest fleet cost after vehicle funding); and giving insight into the concept of 'total cost of ownership' in the context of a small business.

We'll also be lifting the lid on other fleet issues such as short term hire expenses, the truth about accident costs, and the often complex matter of managing business versus personal mileage – including the rules and risks for small businesses.

In 2013, there were 4.9 million businesses in the UK, over 99% of which are categorised as small or medium sized businesses i.e. employing fewer than 250 people. Clearly, many UK

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business fleets will therefore comprise a limited number of vehicles – less than 50 and often less than 10. So throughout this series, you'll discover advice and guidance that's specifically tailored to meet the challenges faced by smaller fleets. Even businesses with just a handful of vehicles can benefit from approaches and solutions developed and honed by fleet providers for larger fleets, which are now becoming more widely accessible.

If you would like to find out more about what Lombard Vehicle Solutions could do for you, or would like to see our vehicle special offers, please click [here](#).

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