

Fleet Services Buying Guide

Vehicle fleet services offer a wide range of benefits to busy fleet managers, that enhance operational efficiency and cost-effectiveness for their businesses.



Fleet services overview

By outsourcing the bulk of their fleet management, companies can focus on their core activities, committing much less resource to maintaining and optimising their vehicle fleets.

The companies offering these focused services employ industry experts to handle multiple disciplines. They typically include: vehicle acquisition, maintenance, renewal and compliance, ensuring that fleets are kept in optimal condition, reducing downtime and repair costs.

The best Fleet Services also provide comprehensive data analytics, offering deep insight into fuel consumption, route optimisation and driver behaviour. These insights help the fleet manager to make informed decisions, regarding improved fuel efficiency and safety.

Fleet services also often deliver bulk purchasing power for fuel, parts and services, leading to significant cost savings. Likewise, hands-on experience with other businesses – for example, in EV transition – often means that any element of trial-and-error is removed from major fleet decisions.

In addition to all those benefits, they ensure regulatory compliance, mitigating the risk of fines and legal issues.

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What fleet services are on offer?

All aspects of fleet management can be outsourced to specialised expert suppliers. Many such services are covered off in other categories, including Lease Cos, Fuel Cards, Telematics & Tracking and Insurance, etc.

This list reveals all the other services on offer, that are designed to relieve busy fleet managers of specific management tasks, and allowing them to be taken over by category experts. Their specialist focus is likely to result in efficiencies to the business, especially in time and money.

Here is a comprehensive list of fleet services available to UK vehicle fleet managers, excluding insurance, driver training, fuel cards, telematics, and tracking:

Fleet Vehicle Acquisition

Short-term vehicle leasing – Short-term leasing options for cars, vans, and trucks, allowing businesses to maintain flexibility without the need for full vehicle ownership. Contract hire – A fixed-cost, long-term rental arrangement with options to include servicing, maintenance, and breakdown cover.

Vehicle purchasing – Direct vehicle purchase services with bulk buying discounts for fleet managers.

Fleet financing – Specialist financial packages for the purchase of new or replacement fleet vehicles.

Breakdown and recovery services

Roadside assistance – 24/7 breakdown assistance across the UK, helping to reduce vehicle downtime in the event of a breakdown.

Vehicle recovery – Recovery services to transport vehicles to repair shops or a safe location after breakdown or accident.

Home start services – Providing roadside assistance for vehicles that break down at the driver's home.

Continental breakdown and recovery services – Ensuring that vehicles travelling in Continental Europe can be repaired or repatriated to the UK with minimum hassle.

Vehicle disposal and remarketing

Fleet Disposal – Services to assist with the resale or scrappage of fleet vehicles at the end of their lifecycle.

Vehicle Remarketing – Optimising the resale value of used vehicles by preparing them for sale, managing auctions, or finding buyers.

Buy-back schemes – Agreements where leasing companies buy back vehicles at the end of their term to make fleet renewal easier

Fleet management software solutions

Fleet management systems – Software platforms for vehicle inventory management, reporting and compliance tracking.

Compliance management – Software to manage legal compliance related to vehicles, including MOTs, vehicle taxation and emissions standards.

Vehicle scheduling and assignment – Solutions for optimal vehicle allocation and scheduling to streamline fleet operations.

Fleet auditing and consultancy services

Fleet audits – Comprehensive reviews of existing fleet operations to identify cost-saving opportunities and areas for efficiency improvement.

Environmental impact audits – Services to assess the carbon footprint of the fleet and advise on how to reduce emissions.

Fleet optimisation consultancy – Strategic advice on optimising fleet operations, vehicle selection, fleet size and cost reduction initiatives.

Compliance and legal services

Fleet legal compliance support – Advisory services ensuring that fleet operations comply with UK road transport laws and regulations, including emissions standards, vehicle safety and driver legalities.

Driver licence checking – Ensuring that all drivers in the fleet have valid licenses and the correct vehicle categories. These are often integrated into wider compliance management systems. Driver licence endorsements (for speeding and crashes, etc) can also be checked.

Tax and vehicle excise duty (VED) Management – Managing the payment and renewal of vehicle tax and ensuring compliance with UK tax regulations.

Electric vehicle (EV) fleet solutions

EV fleet consultancy – Advising on the transition to electric or hybrid vehicles, including vehicle selection, charging infrastructure and operational impacts.

EV battery management – Services to manage battery health, longevity and replacement for electric vehicles.

Vehicle cleaning and valeting services

On-site valeting – Regular or one-off vehicle cleaning services for fleet vehicles, including interior and exterior valeting.

Mobile cleaning services – Mobile valeting units that clean vehicles at the workplace or another convenient location.

Specialist cleaning for HGVs – Professional cleaning for large vehicles, including tankers, lorries, refrigerated trucks, buses and coaches.

Toll and congestion charge management

Congestion charge account management – Services to automate payments and ensure compliance with congestion charge zones, such as London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ).

Toll payment services – Handling toll payments for fleet vehicles, including managing toll accounts, payment cards and records of tollrelated expenses.

Vehicle Hire purchase Solutions

Hire Purchase Agreements – A structured payment plan where businesses can acquire fleet vehicles through staged payments, eventually leading to ownership.

Finance Lease Solutions - Offering businesses the ability to use a vehicle while paying in instalments, with potential options to purchase at the end of the term.

Accident and incident management services

Accident management – Full-service management of vehicle accidents, including recovery, repairs, legal assistance and insurance liaison (without offering insurance policies).

Driver assistance post-incident – Providing drivers with guidance and support in the aftermath of an accident or vehicle incident.

Vehicle Pooling Solutions

Corporate car sharing – Fleet management services that facilitate vehicle sharing within a company, allowing employees to use vehicles for work-related trips and so optimising fleet usage.

Fleet pooling software – Systems that allow fleet managers to oversee and coordinate the sharing of vehicles between multiple departments or locations.

Fleet sustainability and carbon offset programs

Sustainability consultancy – Services focused on reducing the environmental impact of fleets through alternative fuel options, route optimisation and fleet electrification.

Carbon offsetting programs – Offering carbon offsetting initiatives where companies can invest in environmental projects to compensate for their fleet's carbon emissions.





Fleet Services summary

By using a combination of these services, UK vehicle fleet managers can streamline operations, reduce costs, ensure compliance and enhance the efficiency of their fleets... all while giving staff more time to focus on their core operations. Expect the range of fleet services to grow and diversify as the UK fully embraces the ZEV transition.

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