

## **Franklin Implement Emergency roll out for electric fleet**

North West Ambulance Service is rolling out an ambitious electric vehicle programme across the region, appointing Franklin Energy as their charging partner.

The emergency service launched a pilot in 2017 which resulted in far reaching benefits in terms of costs savings and minimising environmental impact. Phase one of the roll out is now underway and 40 BMW i3 vehicles have been purchased with 10 already in use.

Franklin Energy has been commissioned to install 30 charging points at 15 sites across Greater Manchester, Merseyside and Lancashire. All charging points will be in place by September 2019 with a further 105 sites forming part of the charging point roll out under phase 2. They will also provide ongoing operation and maintenance of the chargers for the next 5 years.

Robert Byrne, Managing Director of Franklin Energy commented: "It's fantastic to be working with North West Ambulance Service on their EV drive, they were one of the first services in the UK to trial the electric concept and will now be one of the first to fully embrace it."

Franklin will install the EVBox charger businessline units, delivering 11kw- 22kW X. These units will fully charge a BMW i3 in less than four hours, supported further by the BMW i3's built in 11kW on board charger.

The BMW i3 will be used as rapid response vehicles (RRVs), their compact size allowing a speedy navigation through traffic. Vehicles won't be used to transfer patients but will allow paramedics to arrive at the scene in rapid time and administer treatment.

Robert added: "This is an incredibly smart move by North West Ambulance Service which is expected to realise fuel cost savings of £2.5million over four years. Having the infrastructure in place to ensure the cars can charge obviously forms an integral part of the wider plan and vision. The roll out is now underway as part of phase one with plans for phase two already under discussion."