

Cabinet

15 December 2022

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points - Task and Finish Group Findings

Recommendations

That Cabinet approve the recommendations set out in in paragraph 5 of the Task and Finish Group's report attached at Appendix 1.

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In February 2022, the Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) unanimously voted 'to monitor the rollout of electric charging points'. A Task & Finish group (TFG) was established to look at the various aspects with this in relation to the local authority and what they can do in terms of installing EV charging points.
- 1.2 The TFG held monthly meetings between May-July 2022 and raised varying concerns with charging point placements and types. The work of Transport Planning was acknowledged despite being under resourced. The TFG have made five recommendations to be actioned by the executive.
- 1.3 The agreed recommendations focus on ensuring equality of EV charging points cross-county and what can be done to help increase the number of charging points in Warwickshire.
- 1.4 Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee supported the recommendations and made the additional request that the committee receive an annual briefing note on the EV rollout progress.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1 One of the recommendations the TFG propose is 'Staff resourcing for the commissioning and delivery of EV charging infrastructure by the County to be reviewed and, subject to funding, increased to enable the County Council to develop and deliver the required number of charge points to meet the forecast demand'. Subject to the outcome of the review this is expected to be an additional member of staff to oversee the EV Charging Point rollout.

- 2.2 It is anticipated that this additional resource would be for a fixed term contract for approximately 3 years. This would cost approximately £44,000 annually (including on-costs) if this recommendation is accepted. It is intended that cost of the officer post will be funded from a bid to the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which is anticipated to be open for bid submissions from Local Authorities in 2023.
- 2.3 Funding the additional capacity in this way means, that the recommendations will result in no additional costs to the County Council as funding for the Charging Points will come from existing budgets, central government grants or provided by privately run partners e.g. BP Pulse or Char.gy.

3. Environmental Implications

- 3.1 Supporting the roll out of EV charging infrastructure will help the transition from ICE (internal combustion engines (petrol/diesel ones) to EV, with have consequent benefits in terms of CO² reduction and improvements to air quality.
- 3.2 The recommendations are in line with the Council Plan 2025 by improving air quality in 'built up areas', 'provide charging points for electric vehicles' (page 30) and support 'the use of electric vehicles and move Warwickshire towards sustainable transport choices' (page 41).

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1 The TFG agreed it was important for all elected members and members of the public to be notified of the progress of EV charging points in Warwickshire. This should include any progress with WCC's charging points being repaired when possible.
- 4.2 The TFG were informed that Nuneaton and Bedworth borough were behind the rest of the county in terms of the number of EV charging points per 100,000 people. The TFG therefore concluded that this area should be prioritised for EV charging point placements until it is on a par with the other boroughs and districts. This will be in line with the Council's Levelling Up strategy.
- 4.3 As it stands, permitted development rights around EV charging points make it difficult for some houses with on-street parking to implement these points. The TFG therefore request that a letter be sent to the Minister of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to consider a relaxation of these development rights which would make it easier for these residents to install EV charging points.
- 4.4 As the Transport and Planning Team is focused on commissioning rather than delivery, an additional resource to lead the delivery phase of future

Warwickshire County Council led rollouts is desirable. The TFG support the allocation of more staff resources to rollout EV charging points.

5. Timescales associated with the decision and next steps

- 5.1 A bid to central government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund is currently being developed by Transport Planning so that it can be submitted when the fund opens for bids (date to be confirmed but expected to be 2023). It is expected that the bid would include costs associated with the next phase of rollout of electric vehicle charging infrastructure alongside the revenue costs for an officer to deliver this rollout.

Appendices

1. Report of the Electric Vehicle Charging Point Task and Finish Group
2. Minutes of the Communities OSC 9th November 2022

Background Papers

None

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The report was circulated to the following members prior to publication:

Local Member(s): n/a

Other members: Members of the Communities OSC and Task and Finish Group Members