

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM'S  
REPORT TO**

**Cabinet**  
**10 January 2023**

**Report Title:** Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

**Submitted by:** Executive Director - Sustainable Environment

**Portfolios:** Environment & Recycling

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Purpose of the Report**

To support Staffordshire County councils Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy as part of the Council's commitment to work collaboratively to successfully achieve net zero carbon in line with our Sustainable Environment Strategy and Council Climate Change declaration.

**Recommendation**

**That:**

- 1. Cabinet formally support the County Council Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.**
- 2. The Council helps facilitate actions from the strategy on its own estate and managed car parks.**

**Reasons**

Sustainability and Climate Change are serious issues facing us all, and there is a need to work as a collective across Staffordshire, to address climate change adaptation measures that are within individual organisations leverage, to influence and facilitate change with adaptation to climatic changes that are already locked in.

**1. Background**

- 1.1** At its meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Cabinet received and endorsed the Council's reviewed Medium Term Financial Strategy including a mid-term review of the Council Plan. Under Priority 3 – a Healthy, Active and Safe Borough, Cabinet reaffirmed its commitment to establish a Sustainable Environment Strategy for the Council and the Borough linked to Government targets.
- 1.2** In order to translate the Council's ambitions in respect of the environment, a Sustainable Environment Strategy was approved by Cabinet at its December 2020 meeting and is the vehicle for helping the Council achieve its aims of caring for and enhancing our natural environment and to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.

- 1.3 Across Staffordshire, all ten local authorities have committed to similar strategies, and declarations of climate emergencies.
- 1.4 In order to provide a consistent and collaborative approach across the County of Staffordshire, The Staffordshire Leaders and Chief Executives Group has committed to work collaboratively to successfully achieve net carbon zero in line with each of our independent authority's climate change declarations.
- 1.5 A Staffordshire Sustainability Board (SSB) has been set up to facilitate collaborative forum, consisting of member Portfolio Holders and senior officers with responsibility for sustainability, supported by a team of advisors drawn from across the authorities. The SSB will work to influence change within its own individual organisations as well as other organisations and individuals to ensure that Staffordshire is net zero by at least 2050 or before.
- 1.6 Part of the SSB's work is to collaboratively support and deliver the aspirations and targets of the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.
- 1.7 Government in March 2022, committed an additional £620 million to support the transition to electric vehicles (EV's), and published a national EV Infrastructure Strategy. Clear responsibilities for local authorities are set out as part of the strategy as we have a critical role in the development and expansion of charge points which will enable the transition integrating with other transport modes to meet our community needs.
- 1.8 In recognition of the County Council working with Amey Consulting commenced development of a EV charging strategy and associated action plans which also supports District and Borough Councils together to increase understanding and help the decision making process.
- 1.9 A joint initiative by three Staffordshire councils, funded by Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme, has approval to install rapid electric vehicle charging points. The Council has provided four suitable car park locations for the installation of eight charging points to be installed. The charging points will be made available to both the taxi community, but also the general public. The EV chargers at Goose Street and Heathcote Street are operational and chargers are installed but currently awaiting electricity connection at King Street and The Parade.

## 2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Transport is a major contributor to the climate, health and ecological challenges, which government have acknowledged. Announcement was made in June 2019 of ambitions for the national transport network to be net zero by 2050. Following this announcement was made in November 2020 there will be a ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030. Manufacturers are moving at pace to introduce more electric powered vehicles, with ownership expected to increase to around 10% over the next few years as battery technology continues to improve and travel ranges increase significantly.
- 2.2 Price parity between EV's and combustion engine cars is estimated to be achieved by 2026 therefore the need for access to convenient charging infrastructure will become essential.
- 2.3 The strategy details research conducted by Ordinance Survey, Zap-Map and Field Dynamics has identified that across Staffordshire, on average, 75% of households have access to off-street parking (76% in Newcastle Borough), and households who do not have off-street parking

on average of 3% are within a 5 minute walk from a public charge point. Any public charge point infrastructure will need to prioritise solutions to enable accessible and equitable network of charge points.

The Council is also developing proposals to include EV chargers in the new Ryecroft Multi-storey car park development utilising Newcastle Town Deal funding.

### 3. **Proposal**

3.1 It is proposed that the Council fully supports and engages in the County Councils Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy, and facilitates the implementation of EV charging infrastructure on its own estate and car parks.

### 4. **Reasons for Proposed Solution**

4.1 Sustainability and Climate Change are serious issues facing us all, and there is a need to work as a collective across Staffordshire, to address climate change adaptation measures that are within individual organisations leverage, to influence and facilitate change with adaptation to climatic changes that are already locked in.

### 5. **Options Considered**

5.1 The Council could just focus on and work in isolation in achieving its own targets as set out in the Sustainable Environment Strategy was approved by Cabinet. However, there are significant advantages in working collaboratively across Staffordshire, sharing best practice and innovation. It will also help reduce duplication, therefore allowing all authorities in Staffordshire to move forward effectively, and meet individual challenges of becoming Net Zero organisations.

### 6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

6.1 The Climate Change Act 2008 has the following provisions:

Carbon targets and carbon budgeting – The Act places the government under a legal duty to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050

The committee on Climate Change – The Act also establishes the Committee on Climate Change, an independent, expert body to advise government on the appropriate level for target, budgets, and on matters relating to mitigation and adaptation. The Committee will submit annual reports to parliament on progress towards the targets and government must respond to this report.

6.2 Councils Duty to reduce carbon emissions which are further legislated for as part of the Environment

6.3 All Local Authorities have a ‘biodiversity duty’ under the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006.

### 7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

- 7.1 Support of the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy will look to alleviate equality issues for residents who have no access to off street charging or not within a five-minute walk of a public charge point.
- 7.2 There will be equality issues arising from the rollout of charging infrastructure, which may require Equality Impact Assessments being undertaken.

## 8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 There will be financial implications arising from this report as we move forward, as support for the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy will involve the Council undertaking works on its own estate and car parks where capital funding may be required on a cases by case basis. Business cases will be developed at the appropriate time with a view to including funding in the Councils ongoing MTFs and capital programme.

## 9. Major Risks

- 9.1 There are growing expectations that Councils take a leading and decisive role in this respect and there are reputational risks to the Council in not acting positively.
- 9.2 There are overarching risks of inaction in respect of the Councils response to the environmental threats caused by rising carbon emissions, habitat loss, plastic pollution and poor use of dwindling natural resources. As a result, Councils around the UK and Governments around the world are responding to these threats and public calls for a robust and rapid reduction and mitigation measures.

## 10. UN Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG)

- 10.1 This report, and the base pledges contained within it support all of the UNSDG goals



## 11. Key Decision Information

- 11.1 This report is a key decision, as Climate Change has the potential to have a significant effect on communities living or working in an area.

12. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

- 12.1 Cabinet approved the Councils Sustainable Environment Strategy at its December 2020 meeting.
- 12.2 Cabinet approved signing up to the SSB base pledges at its June 2022 meeting.

13. **List of Appendices**

- 13.1 Staffordshire County council Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy – Appendix 1

14. **Background Papers**

- 14.1 Newcastle under Lyme Sustainable Environment Strategy