

Tuesday, 11 June 2024

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Sustainability, Waste and Recycling

Tamworth Electric Vehicle Strategy

Exempt Information

None

Purpose

This report details the work undertaken in developing the Tamworth Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy, and requests approval from Cabinet for the adoption and formal publication of the Strategy.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

ISAG endorses the final version of the Tamworth Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy.

Executive Summary

On the 6th April 2023 it was requested that Tamworth Borough Council commission a borough-wide bespoke strategy to provide a framework for making decisions around EV charging in Tamworth.

Tamworth Borough Council (TBC) has commissioned Amey to develop Tamworths Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure Strategy.

The bespoke strategy includes;

- a review of available technology and user specific considerations.
- A Commercial Model Appraisal
- a Technology and Market Review which provides in-depth guidance in line with the BSI PAS 1899 electric vehicle charging accessibility specification and in addition commentary on compliance of charging point providers.
- advice regarding open communication protocols such as that of Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP)
- Network capacity maps to gain a clearer understanding of available capacity across the borough.
- Future recommendations

This Strategy report coincides with the findings and recommendations of earlier work undertaken on behalf of Staffordshire County Council (SCC) to generate an Electric Vehicle Strategy. The Staffordshire EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy explored the potential growth of charging infrastructure across the county, including Tamworth. The strategy aimed to coordinate the development of accessible chargepoints and support local authorities, residents, businesses, or others looking to install chargepoints through providing information and guidance. It established that the role of the SCC is to coordinate and facilitate the development of a charging network that meets the needs of the people of Staffordshire, including the equitable distribution of infrastructure and reducing risks associated with poorly located and/or insufficiently maintained facilities. This understanding of the role has been

applied here to TBC with a recognition that some elements of flexibility and resilience can be better provided through a more local approach.

The Tamworth Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy will provide more depth to local and national policy as relevant, a bespoke evaluation of the state of the market in relation to existing chargepoint provision in Tamworth, and a more localised view of the propensity for EV demand, points of interest and network capacity in the borough. Other areas included in the scope including Open Charge Point Protocol (OCPP) considerations, commercial models, the vision, accessibility, funding, and recommendations are also addressed.

The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy coincided with national and local ambitions towards decarbonisation and air quality improvements, such as the reduction in levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) associated with road vehicles and provide accessibility to charging points for all residents across the borough.

It is also recognised that to meet the objectives of the SCC strategy (as adopted by TBC's Cabinet in April 2023) considerable collaboration with SCC is needed to ensure accessibility and affordability ambitions are met for users without access to a driveway.

Options Considered

The options are to (a) adopt, or (b) not adopt the strategy. The benefits of adopting the strategy includes greater access to external funding opportunities and increased viability to engage with the private sector. Working in partnership with SCC is advantageous given their duties with regard to transport. By adopting the Tamworth Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy this would align with the Council's stated ambition to reach Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2050 and aligns with the current corporate plan priority to develop infrastructure for acting on climate change.

Resource Implications

An EV action plan is being developed to set out actionable work streams from the Strategy. This will result in tasks for TBC staff and potential budget implications if activity is to be progressed.

The key EV work stream in the near term is to work in collaboration with SCC who are taking the lead in delivering the LEVI fund project. TBC will need to support with further information regarding site identification such as, land ownership, wayleaves and contracts. SCC have secured capability funding and are in the process of recruiting an Electric Vehicle Project Manager that will support TBC and other officers across the County to roll out the proposed infrastructure.

Legal/Risk Implications Background

There are no significant legal issues arising from the report at this stage, however, legal input will be required as the matter progresses in respect of procurement, suitable governance arrangements and land access permissions.

Equalities Implications

Tamworth Borough Councils Electric Vehicle Infrastructure strategy aims to achieve accessible and affordable charging infrastructure to all residents, with priority given to the 9,378 households who lack off-street parking and are situated outside of a 5-minute walk from a public chargepoint. The Strategy provides guidance for a brand-new standard that offers crucial guidelines for creating easily accessible public charging stations for EVs.

All EVCPs will be fully accessible and adhere to PAS 1899 standards for accessibility and will provide infrastructure for those that need to use public charge points during the day providing equality of access to charge points and enabling more households to own/lease an EV.

Environment and Sustainability Implications (including climate change)

Tamworth Borough Councils Electric Vehicle Infrastructure strategy supports the transition to sustainable transport to achieve net zero by 2050, whilst looking at sustainable solutions to deliver this. Supporting the public availability of EV charge point infrastructure is vital for enabling the uptake of cleaner fuel technology for road vehicles. The installation of electric vehicle charge points will directly contribute to reducing carbon emissions across the Borough and assist with reducing some air pollutants, principally Nitrogen Dioxide, that cause a reduction in air quality.

Background Information

Tamworth Borough Council declared a 'Climate Emergency' on the 19th November 2019 and has pledged to make the Council's operations and activities carbon neutral by 2050, with the aspiration to do so by 2030 if we are financially able to do so.

To support the drive to reach net zero carbon emissions and decarbonise road transport by 2050, the UK government set out its ambitions for all new cars to be electric by 2035. It is recognised that electric vehicles have significant benefits, particularly in relation to air quality, public health and the reduction of carbon emissions, and that usage of electric vehicles by residents, and demand for charging infrastructure, are increasing.

Staffordshire County Council is one of 13 local authorities, together with regional transport body Midlands Connect, to successfully bid for a total of £39.3 million from the LEVI scheme.

The UK Government's LEVI fund supports local authorities in England to work with the Chargepoint industry, to improve the roll out and commercialisation of local charging infrastructure. These public chargepoints will help residents who don't have off-street parking and need to charge their electric vehicles (EVs). LEVI capital fund indicative funding allocation for Staffordshire County Council is £4,588,000.

On the 6th April 2023, Cabinet agreed to adopt the [Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy](#) which outlined working together to investigate opportunities to expand the charging network in local authority-owned car parks in town and district centres

The strategy also sets out the ambition to collaborate together cross-authority to bring a consistent approach to EV charging infrastructure and to benefit from economies of scale across Staffordshire. Tamworth Borough Councils public car parks provide an opportunity to include additional chargepoints in areas of higher need (based on; social demographic, utilisation forecasts or poor electricity connectivity) funded through the LEVI scheme. It should be noted that the majority of chargepoint infrastructure in Tamworth is expected to be installed at on-street locations on County Council land.

The selection of off-street locations will be determined by the estimated number of local residents within a 5-minute walk who do not have access to private off-street parking and the nearby electricity capacity. Efforts will be made to ensure there is a fair allocation across all district and boroughs and throughout residential areas.

The cost to increase the EV infrastructure throughout Tamworth is significant, and therefore the council will need to work closely with SCC in order to benefit from government Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to assist with the costs.

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List of Background Papers

Staffordshire County Council's Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy
SCC EV Charging Infrastructure Strategy Overview

Appendices

Appendix A – Tamworth Borough Council Electric Vehicle Strategy

Appendix B - Community Impact Assesment