

**Report to: Cabinet**

**Date of Meeting: 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

**Report Title: e-petition - Electric Vehicle charging facilities in Hastings**

**Report By: Jane Hartnell, Director of Corporate Services**

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### **Purpose of Report**

To inform Cabinet we have received a petition to request that the Council 'strongly encourage local businesses to, or install themselves, more public charging facilities for electric vehicle owners'

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### **Recommendation(s)**

- 1. It is recommended that Cabinet acknowledge the petition but recognise that there is currently limited grant funding available to expand the public EV charging network**
- 2. The petitioner is advised about the limited grant funding available to expand the public EV charging network currently, but that the Council will actively seek external funding to support an expansion as appropriate funding becomes available.**
- 3. In addition, that as part of the Councils income generation work full consideration will be given to the possibility of expanding the public EV network as part of the review.**
- 4. That the Council contact large supermarkets within the borough to find out about their plans to install EV charge points in their car parks and encourage them to do so.**

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### **Reasons for Recommendations**

The petition has been received whilst the Council are in the process of researching income generation opportunities and investigating grant funding opportunities for low carbon projects that could include expanding the local EV charging network.

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## Introduction

1. The council has received a petition dated 19<sup>th</sup> May 2017 with 38 signatures, seeking that the Council installs and encourages local businesses to install additional public charging facilities for electric cars.

## Setting the Scene

2. Improving the efficiency of the vehicles on our roads forms an important part of the governments overall strategy to drastically reduce greenhouse emissions. The 2008 Climate Change Act (2008) set a UK target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% (compared to 1990) levels by 2050. A range of activity aims to achieve this goal including tackling transport as it accounts for 25% of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions.
3. There has been a continual growth in Ultra-Low Emission (electric) Vehicles (ULEVs) in the UK, in part supported by consecutive Governments national funding programmes for vehicles and infrastructure and the drive towards a low carbon economy. However, continued growth in sales will be in part reliant on the provision of accessible EV charging infrastructure. Between 2015 and 2016, sales of electric cars increased by 56% in the UK
4. Whilst most EV users will charge their vehicles at home or at work, public charging networks provide additional support and the opportunity to extend journey distances. UK charging networks are either national or regional, and include a mixture of slow, fast and rapid chargers. Two of the largest national networks are provided by 'Polar' and 'Charge Your Car' respectively, who provide membership or 'pay-as-you-go' options. Regional networks include 'Energise' in the Southeast and 'Source' in London and the east.
5. Recent statistics from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) Opinions and Lifestyle Survey showed that the 2 most important reasons why people are reluctant to buy an electric vehicle relate to the provision of supporting infrastructure.

## Current Funding

6. The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) provides grant funding to support the expansion of the EV charging infrastructure. There are 3 types of funding currently available.
  - **Electric Vehicle Home Charge Scheme** – up to 75% of the total capital costs (capped at £500 including VAT) towards the cost of installing electric vehicle charge points at domestic properties across the UK.
  - **The Workplace Charging Scheme (WCS)** is a voucher-based scheme that provides support towards the up-front costs of the purchase and installation of electric vehicle charge-points, for eligible businesses, charities and public sector organisations. The contribution is limited to £300 for each socket up to a maximum of 20 across all sites for each application

- **The On-street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS)** provides grant funding for local authorities towards the cost of installing on-street residential charge points for plug-in electric vehicles, for those who do not have access to off-street parking.
7. In addition, the Plug-in scheme provides grant funding towards the cost of an electric vehicle.
- **Plug-in car, motor cycle and van grants provides** up to 35% of the cost of a car, up to a maximum of either £2,500 or £4,500; 20% of the cost of a van, up to a maximum of £8,000 and 20% of the cost of a motorcycle, up to a maximum of £1,500.
8. Other funding opportunities include European funding and these are currently being investigated to see if these could support the expansion of the local EV network e.g. European Regional Development Fund – Priority 4 - Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy.
9. As part of the Councils research into income generation opportunities including the deployment of renewable energy technologies, opportunities for EV charging infrastructure will also be considered.

### **ESCC Local Transport Plan**

10. ESCC is responsible for transport planning in the Hastings area. Electric charging infrastructure is referred to within ESCC Local Transport Plan 2011-2026, and includes a commitment to ‘consider the implementation of electric vehicle infrastructure (i.e. charging points) in the priority areas of the county, which is the growth areas’, which includes Hastings. In recent correspondence with the transport planning team, whilst funding is not been actively pursued at the moment due to resource constraints, the team are very keen to support local groups and organisations with advice and support potential funding applications on a case by case basis.

### **Current EV Charging Points in Hastings and St Leonards**

11. Hastings Council has previously worked together with other local authorities through the Sussex Air Quality Partnership to secure government funding to support the development of the ‘Energise Network’, namely the southeast EV charging network (<http://www.energisenetwork.co.uk/>) which the existing 2 public EV charge points at Pelham Place and Marina car park are part of.
12. The most recent funding application (2013-2015) to OLEV, secured £2.4m for 10 rapid speed charging points being installed in East Sussex, including the Marina Car Park in Hastings. The Foreshore Trust currently provides the a2 site free of charge to users, at Pelham Place users, pay for parking only and not the cost of electricity; whilst the Council provides a rapid speed charger at Marina Car Park, the Council pays for the charge session to ‘Charge Your Car’ (£1.35 per charge) and the electricity costs. Any expansion of the network would need to review our current policy so that a long term, sustainable financial model be achieved.

13. Usage of the 2 sites has been gradually increasing, which reflects the increase in electric vehicle ownership and wider awareness of the national EV network. Pelham has seen an increase from 176 to 301 uses between 2015/16 and 2016/17, with 136 uses in the last 3 months; Marina car park has seen an increase from 228 to 1222 uses between 2015/16 and 2016/17, with 405 uses in the last 3 months.
14. The Council is keen to expand the existing network to support the expansion of electric vehicles, as this contributes to its commitments towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality. In addition, electric vehicles and the associated infrastructure, long term, could play an important role in the Councils income generation and renewable energy plans.
15. However, there is currently limited grant funding available to support the expansion of the public network. Any expansion of the existing provision, would need to consider ongoing maintenance costs and charging fees; for example, the replacement charger in Pelham Place Car park cost £4000 in January 2016.
16. The installation of public charge points in supermarkets and other publically accessible car parks can help to support the expansion the existing EV charging network. Many large supermarket chains such as Sainsbury's have begun to install facilities.

### Conclusion

17. It is recommended that Cabinet acknowledge the petition but recognise that there is currently limited grant funding available to expand the public EV charging network.
18. The petitioner is advised about the limited grant funding available to expand the public EV charging network, but that the Council will actively seek external funding to support an expansion as appropriate funding becomes available. In addition, that as part of the Councils income generation work full consideration will be given to the possibility of expanding the public EV network.
19. That the Council contact large supermarkets within the borough to find out about plans to install EV charge points in their car parks and encourage them to do so.

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### Wards Affected

All

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### Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	no
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	no
Risk Management	no
Environmental Issues	yes
Economic/Financial Implications	yes
Human Rights Act	no

Organisational Consequences	no
Local People's Views	yes
Anti-Poverty	no

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### Additional Information

The 5<sup>th</sup> Carbon Budget <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/the-fifth-carbon-budget-the-next-step-towards-a-low-carbon-economy/>

Public attitudes towards electric vehicles 2016 (revised)  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/public-attitudes-towards-electric-vehicles-2016>

Office for Low Emission Vehicles <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/office-for-low-emission-vehicles>

Energise Network the southeast's electric charge network-  
<http://www.energisenetwork.co.uk/>

Zap Map – national map of electric vehicle charging points <https://www.zap-map.com/>  
and public charging networks <https://www.zap-map.com/charge-points/public-charging-point-networks/>

Plug in grant funding to buy electric vehicle - <https://www.gov.uk/plug-in-car-van-grants/what-youll-get>

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### Officer to Contact

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