

Report To: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 1st September 2020

Report Title: Accelerated Town Fund Project - Investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure in town centre public car parks

Report By: Mike Hepworth – Assistant Director Environment and Place

Key Decision: N/A

Classification: Open

Purpose of Report

To set out the case for installing new electric vehicle (EV) charge points for Priory Street and Carlisle Underground car parks from the Renewable Energy Capital Programme. This is in addition to the £15,000 funding requested from the Town Board Accelerator Fund programme.

Recommendation(s)

1. To allocate up to £35,000 for the purchase and installation of new EV charge points in Priory Street and Carlisle Underground car parks from the renewable energy capital budget within the capital programme. This is in addition to £15,000 funding, provisionally approved by the Town Board, as part of its Accelerated Fund proposal to the government.
2. That delegated authority be given to the Assistant Director of Environment and Place, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer and the Lead Councillor for Natural Environment and Leisure, to appoint and instruct contractors to install new EV charge points by 31st March 2021.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. The investment in and expansion of Electric Vehicle(EV) infrastructure, has been highlighted as an important element of the draft economic recovery plans for the borough and county.
2. Currently, the town centre area has only three publicly accessible EV charging points, one at Pelham Place car park; and two at Morrisons super market.
3. The Council has committed to installing 15 public charging points by the end of this financial year, in support of delivering its climate emergency commitments to make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030.

This investment will support and enable residents, businesses and visitors to travel to the town centre, with the knowledge and confidence that they will be able to charge their electric vehicle. Such investment will support the transition to low carbon vehicles and help to meet the towns climate emergency action plan and improve local air quality.

Introduction

1. Until recently the only Council operated EV charge point available in the town centre area was a single unit in Pelham Place Car Park, and unfortunately this unit has been faulty for many months.
2. In early March 2020 the Charity Committee allocated funding to replace the single unit at Pelham with 3 new EV charge points. The council, using its own fund, also agreed to replace the faulty EV unit at Marina Car Park with another 3 new units. There is also a newly installed 'private' charger at Morrisons Supermarket.
3. The draft Economy Recovery Plans for East Sussex and the newly adopted Hastings climate emergency action plan recognise the importance of transition to low carbon transport and include an action to 'prepare a plan for delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout East Sussex'; this project would positively contribute to the delivery of this strategy, as well as delivering much needed EV infrastructure in Hastings town centre. To help incentivise consumers to switch to EVs the Government's Plug-In grant scheme provides £3,000 funding towards the cost of buying an electric car, along with fiscal measures such as exemption from Vehicle Excise Duty.
4. A grant application was made to the Accelerated Towns Fund for £15,000 to support the expansion of the town centre EV infrastructure. If successful, this investment will support and enable residents, businesses and visitors to travel to the town centre, with the knowledge and confidence that they will be able to charge their electric vehicle.
5. Whilst we acknowledge the Council has an important role in helping the transition to electric vehicles by providing infrastructure in its car parks, we also welcome investment from the private sector, as we cannot deliver this agenda alone, and encourage other providers to help meet the growing demand for EV charging. Likewise, we encourage East Sussex County Council to bring forward plans for installing on-street charging facilities, as this could lead to a significant increase in EV ownership in the town.
6. This is just the start of installing infrastructure which will enable sustainable transport within our town, there will be more to come, including E charging for bikes and scooters.
7. The Accelerator Fund application has been provisionally approved by the Town Board EDG, meeting the following key criteria of the fund:
 - Capital only projects
 - Projects which complete by the 31st March 2021
 - Projects NOT part of a larger scheme (stand alone projects)
 - Projects that will result in:
 - a. Improvements to or new parks, green spaces and sustainable transport links
 - b. Improvements to town centres
8. The package of proposals for the Accelerator Fund was submitted to the government on 14th August 2020 with final decisions to be announced in late September 2020. Works cannot proceed until formal government approval of the proposals. To provide additional EV charging infrastructure at two other council owned car parks (Priory Street and Carlisle Underground car park) and increase the capacity at Pelham Place Car Park will require a total investment of approximately £50,000. Appendix 1 provides summary assessments of the various locations considered for the new charge points in the town centre.

9. £35,000 Match funding is being requested from the Renewable Energy Capital programme budget to support the delivery of this project.
10. The £15,000 of Accelerated Towns Funding, will only allow for the installation of 2 EV charging points in Carlisle Underground Car Park. The additional capital match funding requested from HBC would enable further installations at Priory Street Multi Storey Car Park. Together this would make the town centre a key location for electric charge points for shoppers, tourists and those needing to drive into work in electric vehicles.
11. The 2 car parks (subject to electrical wiring and safety upgrades) would deliver up to 12 new EV charging stations. This investment will have immediate impact and benefit to the town and could be further developed once the Town Deal Investment plans have been finalised. We believe that these 2 sites will be particularly attractive to visitors to the town.

Next Steps

12. Installation of EV charge points will be instructed if the Accelerated Towns Fund proposals have been approved by the government. To ensure that the system integrates with the recently upgraded EV chargers at Pelham Place and Marina car parks, quotations will be sought for the same type of EV charger and back office functionality.

Public Exemption

13. This report is not confidential

Timetable of Next Steps

14. Please include a list of key actions and the scheduled dates for these:

| Action | Key milestone | Due date (provisional) | Responsible |
|--|---|---|--|
| Confirm HBC match funding | Cabinet approval and submission to government of Accelerator Fund proposals | Accelerator Fund submission 14 th Aug 2020, with Government decision to be announced late September 2020 | Assistant Director Environment and Place |
| Prepare quotation brief for procurement | | 30 th September 2020 | Enforcement Manager |
| Seek quotations from bids from EV infrastructure suppliers | | 1 October 2020 to November 2020 | Enforcement and Climate Change Managers |
| UKPN liaison re car park capacity and earthing system | | 1 November 2020 | Enforcement and Climate Change Managers |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Instruct EV charger suppliers | Award contract to preferred supplier | 6 November 2020 | Enforcement Manager |
| Complete contract work with supplier for back office | Commission Equipment | 8 February 2021 | Enforcement Manager |

Wards Affected

All wards will benefit

Policy Implications

Reading Ease Score: 41.7 13.3 years

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

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Equalities and Community Cohesiveness | N |
| Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17) | N |
| Risk Management | N |
| Environmental Issues & Climate Change | Y |
| Economic/Financial Implications | Y |
| Human Rights Act | N |
| Organisational Consequences | N |
| Local People's Views | N |
| Anti-Poverty | N |
| Legal | N |

Additional Information

Appendix 1 Summary of high-level electrical site assessments

Officer to Contact

Officer Paul Cosson and Chantal Lass
 Enforcement Manager and Climate Change Programme Manager
 Email Pcosson@hastings.gov.uk and class@hastings.gov.uk
 Tel 01424 783365 or 451483

Appendix 1 Summary of high-level electrical site assessments

Site assessment

A high-level electrical survey of the 4 town centre car parks has been undertaken by the Councils electrical contractors, which has revealed there is some electrical capacity at 3 sites to increase the availability of EV chargers. These sites are Pelham Place Car Park, Priory Street Multi-Storey Car Park and Carlisle Parade Car Park.

The sites could be used by residents, visitors and local businesses. By improving the EV infrastructure this will increase the likelihood of visitors using EVs to travel to Hastings and increase the possibility of EV owners visiting the town.

Pelham Place Car Park supply

There is already a dedicated supply at this location, but we have been advised that it could realistically charge a total of 5 EV charge points which would be an increase of 2 extra cars charging here at an estimated cost of about £6000.

Carlisle Street Car Park supply

The existing electrical capacity at the car park can currently support two charging stations as it stands which would charge two cars at any one time. The car park could be suitable for an upgrade by UK Power Network (UKPN), but the costs and time needed to achieve this would require a more detailed assessment by UKPN and at the time of writing it is unclear whether this would be achieved during the proposed project timeline but could be considered for future investments. The funding from the Accelerated Towns Fund must be spent by the 31st March 2021. The estimated costs are £10,000 for this site.

Priory Street Car Park supply

This is by far the most promising location regarding electrical supply capacity. Subject to a more detailed electrical loading survey the existing electrical capacity at the car park could support approximately 10 charging stations which could charge 10 cars at any one time. A more detailed assessment needs to be carried out at the site to consider the earthing system but is thought that the estimated costs for this site would be about £30,000.