

Report

Scrutiny

Part 1

Date: 12 May 2023

Subject EV Charging Strategy

Purpose To invite comments on the draft EV Charging Strategy from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee before the strategy goes out to public consultation.

Author Programme Manager – Climate Change

Ward All wards

Summary Newport

Proposal For Scrutiny Committee to review and provide feedback on the draft EV Charging Strategy

Action by Scrutiny

Timetable Immediate

Signed

Background

Decreasing carbon emissions from vehicles is a key priority in order to be able to meet our commitments to reaching Net Zero by 2050.

The Future Trends report highlights the increase in popularity of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEVs) and that this is likely to reduce transport emissions. In November 2022, over 27% of all new cars sold in the UK were battery electric vehicles or plug in hybrid electric vehicles. The equivalent figure for December 2019 was less than 2%. The uptake of plug-in vehicles in Newport was forecasted between 2020 until 2050. The data suggests that there will be in the region of 120,000 electric vehicles in the city early in the 2040s.

However, many residential streets in Newport do not have off-street parking in order to be able to charge an electric vehicle. Some residents may have front gardens that can be converted for this purpose, but this has implications for sustainable drainage and flooding, and many houses do not have this capacity. In addition, there is a lack of destination charging in areas like the City Centre.

An Ernst and Young study in 2022 found that a lack of charging stations is the biggest inhibitor to the uptake of ULEVs. If we do not invest in better charging infrastructure then this will slow the uptake of electric vehicles in Newport, which is already low, given that Wales has one of the lowest rates of ULEV ownership in the UK. This will have a knock-on effect on the ability of Newport to reduce its carbon emissions.

Since 2019, when Newport Council jointly delivered a Gwent-wide public Electric Vehicle (EV) charging network, Newport has worked to continue to deliver and support the delivery of public EV charging infrastructure for our residents, businesses and visitors. The city now has 27 rapid chargers and 64 public fast chargers. The usage on the public sector dragon charging network chargers in Newport has risen from 367kWh in January 2021 to 3712kWh in January 2023, a ten-fold increase in two years. A study that NCC commissioned last year predicted that if Newport was on a balanced net zero pathway, the city would need to have 408 public accessible charge points by the end of 2022 and 597 by the end of 2023, including 95 on street charge points and 91 rapid chargers with the remaining chargers being fast chargers. Although good progress has been made, the actual numbers are currently short of this target. Therefore, the planned work for the next three financial years must be ambitious.

Newport currently has a population of approximately 154,676 residents living in 67,058 households with a total of 76,200 cars registered. This equates to 1.14 cars per household.

Of these households, 21,909 (33%) do not have enough space to park a car off-street – therefore, for those residents that ultimately do not choose to (or are not able to) modal shift to solely active or public transport, reliable charge points within a 5-minute walk of peoples properties is going to be essential to support the transition to a zero tailpipe emission future within our city.

Using 2021/22 ULEV funding, NCC installed chargers in 9 on street locations – since commissioning these have collectively been used an average of 50 times per month with this figure increasing month-by-month.

NCC have set up an EVcharging@Newport.gov.uk inbox and have been collecting requests from residents for on-street charges close to their homes to either enable them to move to zero emission vehicles or support the proactive move they have already made. To date we have recorded 28 requests for chargers. In 2023/2024 (subject to grant support) we intend to carry out installations at 50 locations to meet the needs of these residents, additional residents who contact us and other pre-identified locations which are ideal for residential fast charging.

We will also be continuing to work with Cardiff Capital region and Connected Kerb to undertake their planned phase 2 and phase 3 installations which consist of 20 to 30 chargers across the city.

By the end of 2023 we are aiming for there to be over 150 publicly owned fast chargers in Newport.

The Strategy

This EV Charging Strategy allows us to provide a structured and considered rollout of EV charging infrastructure tailored to and built for the needs of our residents, businesses and visitors. Whilst we recognise that the private sector has an important role to play, we cannot rely on them to provide the coverage we need. As the responsible body for local highways, we should be leading on the installation of EV infrastructure in the public realm. The Strategy will allow us to set out the principles behind the future rollout of EV Charging Infrastructure within the City. Further to the overall strategy, we will be developing and issuing design guidance based on Welsh Government guidelines around accessibility and meeting the needs of residents. The Strategy also provides public confidence in our future EV Charging Network which is key to driving the behaviour change needed to move from petrol vehicles to electric ones. It also provides us with a framework to engage with funding providers, the private sector and other partners.

Financial Summary

Installation of public EV chargers is fully covered by grant funding from Welsh Government.

Links to Council Policies and Priorities

The EV Charging Strategy will support the Council's corporate Plan, specifically Well-being Objective 2, Environment and Infrastructure.

It also supports the current Climate Change Plan's theme of Transport and Mobility, which has actions to increase public charging units across the city considering strategic sites to fit with the wider network and to increase the number of residents without off street parking that are in a 5-minute walk of a charging point.

It will also directly feed into the Local Area Energy Plan which has a target of there being at least 80 rapid and 1040 fast publicly accessible chargers by 2025.

Options Available and considered

- 1) To approve the draft EV Charging Strategy for public consultation
- 2) To provide feedback on the Strategy and suggest changes prior to public consultation

Recommendations.

Preferred Option and Why

Both options would be equally preferable

Consultation

Consultation with both the public and with partners such as Sustrans will begin once the draft Strategy is approved by this committee.

Background Papers

[Newport Local Area Energy Plan](#)

Dated: 12 May 2023