



Winchester
City Council

COUNCIL MEETING – 26 February 2020

Question under Council Procedure Rule 15(3)

QUESTION 8

From: Councillor Ferguson

To: The Cabinet Member for Built Environment and Wellbeing (Cllr Porter)

“Given the Council’s decision to introduce electric vehicle (EV) charging points in council owned car parks across the District, can the Cabinet member for the Built Environment and Wellbeing explain on what basis the car parks were selected and whether other additional sites are likely to be introduced going forward?”

Also, how does the introduction of EV charging points fit into the council’s plan to improve air quality, recognising that while electric vehicles do not produce CO or NOx, they still produce the fine particulates that are known to have an adverse effect on health?”

Reply

“In January 2019 the Council adopted its EV Charging Strategy which was commissioned through an independent consultant, Horizon Power and Energy. The strategy proposed the location and type of charging points in several Council owned car parks across the district, based upon various data criteria i.e. car park size, occupancy profiles and travel distances. Having adopted the strategy work started on implementation which involved the City Council signing up to Hampshire County Council’s Framework agreement for EV charging infrastructure.

Under the framework agreement JoJu were commissioned to assess the delivery of the strategy. At the same time they carried out their own feasibility study albeit based on our strategy. This work informed the final options developed for EV charging infrastructure provision which were considered by Cabinet this month. The option agreed is fully funded by the Council and provider and will deliver 32 charging points across a number of Winchester and market town car parks which should be sufficient to satisfy anticipated demand and promote the up-take of electric vehicles.

This represents the first phase of rolling out our charging points but the infrastructure will be future proofed to allow for the installation of more units as and when the need arises. In addition, as the Cabinet report explains, we will also be looking at other locations for charging points such as the Park and Ride sites and Council's own housing estates.

The Electric Vehicle charging Strategy was commissioned subsequent to it being identified as a complimentary measure within the Council's Air Quality Action Plan, adopted in 2017. Electric vehicles are better in terms of emissions compared to conventional petrol and diesel vehicles. Providing charging points therefore supports our aim of improving air quality, lowering carbon emissions from transport, whilst seeking to ensure the Council's leadership in encouraging societal uptake of ultra low emission vehicles

However, I acknowledge that such vehicles are not without their own issues and are therefore only part of the solution. The City of Winchester Movement Strategy and new Parking and Access Strategy are intended to reduce traffic in the town centre and encourage people to switch to other forms of transport such walking, cycling and buses. It is a combination of actions which will address the issue of delivering air quality which does not adversely affect public health."