

Regeneration, Culture and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee

BRIEFING NOTE – No. 7/23

Date: 10 March 2023

Briefing paper to: All Members of the Regeneration, Culture and Environment
Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Purpose: To update Members of the Committee on the
development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action
Plan for Medway**

1. Background

1.1. The UK government has published Taking Charge: the electric vehicle charging strategy. It sets out the challenges and actions needed to transition the UK away from vehicles powered by Internal Combustion Engines (ICE) to electric vehicles (EVs). Taking Charge envisages that the private sector will meet most of the demand for EV infrastructure. However, it states that local authorities should develop a strategy for the rollout of charge points in their area and that they will have a role in providing charge points to meet the needs of householders who lack off-street parking. This is captured in Medway's Climate Change Action Plan, which requires us to complete a study to better understand the demand for electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Medway and publish an Electric Vehicle strategy. A consultant specialising in EV was commissioned, and work on the strategy document commenced in 2021.

2. What Medway's EV strategy will do

2.1. The Strategy will set out how the Council will guide delivery of public charging infrastructure for EVs up until 2030. The underlying aim of the strategy will be to enable all residents and businesses to switch to EVs, ahead of the 2030 ban on the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles. This will be underpinned by three main objectives:

1. Households in Medway will have access to charge points that are affordable, conveniently located, sufficient to meet demand, accessible to all and well maintained.

2. Medway Council's EV Infrastructure delivery should be focused on achieving the greatest gains in air quality and reductions of greenhouse gases.
3. Medway Council's EV Infrastructure delivery should not negatively affect pedestrians.

3. Medway's EV Strategy

- 3.1. The Strategy will comprise the following sections:
- 3.2. **An executive summary** covering the principles and objectives of the strategy.
- 3.3. **Chapter 1 – Medway's policy rationale for providing EV infrastructure**

This will cover road transport emissions, their impact and how EVs can improve air quality and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- 3.4. **Chapter 2 – The Challenges**

This section comprises a summary of EV users charging needs in Medway and the available charging technology. It includes baseline information on EV infrastructure provision, the number of EVs and the projected future requirements.

- 3.5. **Chapter 3 – Medway's Role in providing EV infrastructure**

This will include the wider policy context and regulations that apply to new development. It will set out what Medway's vision and objectives are.

- 3.6. **Chapter 4 – The implementation plan**

- 3.6.1. This will set out the funding landscape, and what concrete actions Medway will take to deliver charge points up to 2030. The actions will be based around four themes: reducing the Council's direct emissions, providing suitable EV infrastructure for residents and businesses, working in partnership with key stakeholders and working to ensure a 'just transition.'
- 3.6.2. The Strategy will conclude with technical appendices and an Equality Impact Analysis to demonstrate how Medway has considered the needs of all groups with protected characteristics.

4. Progress to date and next steps

- 4.1. Chapters 1-4 are complete; the technical appendices are being compiled and the Equality Impact Analysis will be commissioned shortly. The draft strategy document will be finished by the end of the financial year 2022/23. At that stage, it will be presented to the Portfolio Holder for Frontline Services and the Chair of the Climate Change Member Advisory Board and circulated for internal comments. Any amendments will be incorporated into the draft, which will then be presented to the first Climate Change Member Advisory Group meeting of 2023/24.
- 4.2. It is therefore proposed that the draft Strategy is presented to the Committee in Summer 2023, prior to consideration by Cabinet.

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