

**Appendix A**  
**Public**  
**Key Decision Yes\***

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

**Meeting/Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024: Cabinet

**Executive Portfolio:** Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray Executive District Councillor for Climate & Environment

**Report by:** Operations Manager (GM)  
Assistant Director Strategic Insight & Delivery (NS)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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### **Executive Summary:**

In recent years there has been a significant growth in the number of electric vehicles (EV) seen on the roads in the UK with over 3,500 now registered in our District. This growth is anticipated to increase in line with restrictions on the sale and manufacture of vehicles.

Acknowledging this growth, the Council's Climate Action Plan approved February 2023 set out an action to 'Develop an EV Strategy for Huntingdonshire'.

The Council's Climate Working Group in collaboration with officers have developed a 'Public EV Charging' strategy that aims to identify and provide clarity on the role of Huntingdonshire District Council in public EV charging.

### **Recommendation:**

The Cabinet is recommended to:

- a) Adopt the proposed 'Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy' included with this report.

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to request that the Cabinet adopt the proposed 'Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy' appended to this report.

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1. In recent years there has been a significant growth in the number of electric vehicles seen on the roads in the UK with over 3,500 now registered in our District. This growth is anticipated to increase in line with restrictions on the sale and manufacture of vehicles.
- 2.2. Acknowledging this growth, the Council's Climate Action Plan approved February 2023 set out an action to 'Develop an EV Strategy for Huntingdonshire'. In addition, the Council's Corporate Plan prioritises creating a better Huntingdonshire by lowering our carbon emissions. The development of an EV strategy aims to support the growing EV use which will reduce the number of Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles in use.
- 2.3. The Council's Climate Working Group in collaboration with officers have developed a 'Public EV Charging' strategy that aims to identify and provide clarity on the role of Huntingdonshire District Council in public EV charging.
- 2.4. Recognising EV growth, funding opportunities have previously been made available to local authorities. It is noted that to access to these funds, there has been a requirement for the Local Authority to have an endorsed EV Strategy in place.
- 2.5. A Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) EV Infrastructure Strategy is currently under development. The aim of that document is to set out a high-level approach to EV Charging provision across our region and differs in scope to our own proposed strategy. Officers have had the opportunity to review and comment on the development of the CPCA document.

## **3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

The options available to the Council are:

- a) Do Nothing
- b) Develop an EV Strategy

### **3.1. a) Do Nothing**

- 3.1.1. Should the Council consider this option; it will not meet an objective set out in the Climate Action Plan. Failure to have an EV strategy in place may limit our ability to apply for external funding.

### **3.2. b) Develop an EV Strategy**

3.2.1. This option will meet an objective set out in the Climate Action Plan.

3.2.2. This option provides additional benefits which include:

- Provision of a clear direction and remit for the Council in relation to Public EV Charge Points. The principles outlined in the strategy can be used to inform service plans and support the scoping of future projects.
- Based on previously observed funding opportunities, adoption will likely increase the Council's eligibility to future funds available.
- Recognition of local priorities that the Council can champion in collaborative works with other authorities (e.g. CPCA/CCC) seeking to make improvements in the area.

## **4. STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT**

4.1. The methodology relating to the development of the strategy is detailed in section 3 of the strategy. This section provides details of areas that are out of scope.

4.2. The development of the strategy included:

- Public consultation through a survey which received over 400 responses.
- Assessment of local EV ownership
- Assessment of local public EV charging provision.

4.3. This strategy does not seek to amend the responsibility for on-street/Highways matters which remain with Cambridgeshire County Council. More information relating to CCC EV Charging can be found at the following address.

<https://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/residents/travel-roads-and-parking/roads-and-pathways/electric-vehicle-charging-points#>

4.4. The CPCA EV Infrastructure Strategy is currently under development. The aim of that document is to set out a high-level approach to EV Charging provision across our region. The CPCA Strategy is distinct from the aim of this document, which focuses specifically in defining the role that Huntingdonshire District Council will play in supporting or funding public charging provision within our District.

## **5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1. The strategy does not ask for any additional financial provision at this time. The strategy does set out how we will look to fund enhanced provision in our off-street car parks.

5.2. The strategy confirms the principles we will apply when looking to utilise external funding sources. Based on previously observed funding opportunities, adoption of a strategy will likely increase the Council's eligibility for any future funds available.

- 5.3. The Council has been granted funding through the UK Shared Prosperity Rural Fund. This funding (~£265k) requires an output of an increased number of EV Charge points with an increased level of usage. We will progress the use of these funds in line with the constraints it was granted under, and the principles set out in our strategy.

## **6. COMMENTS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

- 6.1. The Panel discussed the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Report at its meeting on 7th March 2024.
- 6.2. Councillor Alban stated that he was pleased with the reassurance that rural villages would be supported with this strategy and that it was a collaborative piece of work.
- 6.3. Following an enquiry from Councillor Hunt regarding the common constraints in electrical supply, the Panel heard that this would be addressed on a case by case basis.
- 6.4. In response to a question from Councillor Lowe, the Panel heard that whilst a formal timescale had not yet been set for connection to the grid, a lead time of 3 to 4 months was anticipated.
- 6.5. Councillor Kerr praised an excellent piece of work which she hoped would prove useful for parishes across the district, a sentiment which was shared by the Panel.
- 6.6. Following the discussion, the Panel were informed that their comments would be added to the Cabinet report in order for an informed decision to be made on the report recommendations.

## **7. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PLAN**

- 7.1. The Council's Corporate Plan prioritises 'Creating a better Huntingdonshire' by 'lowering our carbon emissions.'

## **8. CONSULTATION**

- 8.1. The strategy has been developed in accordance with the principles of the Corporate Plan. We have listened to feedback from local people and evaluated priorities to develop our role and objectives.

## **9. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1. The development of an EV strategy aims to support the growing EV use which will reduce the number of Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles in use which will help to reduce carbon emissions.

## **10. CLIMATE WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIP**

- 10.1. The following Councillors form the membership of the Climate Working Group:
- Cllr Dave Shaw
  - Cllr Julie Kerr
  - Cllr Charlotte Lowe
  - Cllr Tim Alban
  - Cllr Lara Davenport-Ray

## **11. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 11.1. The Council remains committed to delivery of the objectives of the Climate Action Plan.
- 11.2. The strategy aims to support the growing EV use which will reduce the number of Internal Combustion Engine Vehicles in use. This supports the Council's Corporate Plan priority of creating a better Huntingdonshire by lowering our carbon emissions.
- 11.3. The developed strategy provides a clear role and remit for the Council. Its development has been informed by public engagement and analysis of local information.
- 11.4. Previously available external funding has stipulated a requirement for the Local Authority to have an EV Strategy. Based on this observed criteria, adoption of a strategy will likely increase the Council's eligibility for future available funding.

## **12. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED**

Appendix 1: Public Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy

## **13. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Huntingdonshire District Council: Climate Strategy Council (22<sup>nd</sup> February 2023)

<https://democracy.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s125879/Climate%20Strategy%20Report%20for%20Full%20Council.pdf>

Huntingdonshire District Council: Climate Strategy

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/6882/climate-strategy-appendix-1-climate-strategy.pdf>

Huntingdonshire District Council: Climate Action Plan adopted February 2023

<https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/6912/climate-strategy-action-plan.pdf>

## **14. CONTACT OFFICERS**

Operations Manager (GM)  
Assistant Director Strategic Insight & Delivery (NS)