

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY 31 MAY 2017

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS

REPORT OF JENNY POOLE, GROUP MANAGER GO SHARED SERVICES

(Contact: Jenny Poole, Tel: (01285) 623313)

(The decisions on this matter will be a resolution.)

1. PURPOSE

To provide Members with a progress update from the Electric Vehicle Charging Point Working Party.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee considers the update in general and, in particular, the draft vision and the proposed next steps set out in sections 4 and 5.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1. The Committee, at its meeting on 5 April 2017, agreed to establish a Working Party to explore the possibility of providing electric vehicle charging points in Council owned car parks. The Working Party, comprising of Councillors Postan, Good and Saul, have met with Officers to discuss the aims and objectives of the Working Party and to discuss some opportunities which are now emerging in the electric vehicle charging market.

3.2. Officers working in the car parking service are shared with Cotswold District Council and have experience of introducing two electric vehicle charging points in that district. The implementation at Cotswold DC, which was funded by a government grant, provides useful information on the costs and complexity of installation of charging points.

3.3. The electric vehicle charging point market is evolving rapidly. Officers are aware of at least one supplier in the market that is promoting a solution which offers installation and on-going management of electric vehicle charging points in return for a payment to the landowner. However, this offer has not been formally tested by the Council and a procurement exercise would need to be carried out to offer other suppliers the opportunity to bid for this, or a similar, service.

3.4. There are several advantages to this service model including:

- Past experience has shown that the installation of electric vehicle charging points is highly complex and time consuming, the Council does not currently have staff resources available to administer a project of this type;
- Price setting would be the responsibility of the contractor and income would be collected by them, the Council would receive a rental income generating a small income stream;
- There would be no conflict with the Council's policy of free parking.

3.5. Some disadvantages identified include the following:

- The model may only be attractive to suppliers on major transport routes to act like a fuel station for motorists who need to top up as they are travelling. This may limit the potential for points to be placed in sites identified by the Working Party;
- Legal constraints necessary as part of the contract may limit the Council's flexibility in the management of its car parking assets, or relocation of the charging units may require a financial contribution to the supplier.

3.6. Using the information gathered above, the Working Party has developed a vision for electric vehicle charging across the district. The vision and suggested next steps are set out in sections 4 and 5 of this report. The Committee are asked to consider the draft vision and the proposed next steps to provide a steer to the Working Party.

4. VISION

4.1. Outlined below is the Working Party's draft vision for Electric Vehicle Charging across the district:

"The Council will play a leading role, facilitating the availability of electrical vehicle charging points for its community.

The Council will work with the private sector to secure investment in the provision of electric vehicle charging points at strategic locations across the District. The strategic sites will be selected, in conjunction with the Council's selected third party supplier, with the aim of providing access to the service for residents, incoming commercial and social visitors and, where possible, to present a visible presence.

The Council will promote the inclusion of infrastructure for electric vehicle charging through its work with social housing providers and more generally through the planning process."

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. Officers to test the market so that a fuller appraisal of market opportunities can be carried out.
- 5.2. The outcome from the market testing to be used to establish the financial implications for the Council.
- 5.3. The Working Party to present its findings to the next Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, with a view to onward recommendation to the Cabinet for approval and implementation.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None at this point in time. The outcome of the market testing will be used to provide the Committee with financial implications at its next meeting.

7. REASONS

7.1. To enable the Committee to oversee the Working Party and provide a steer on the project.

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Background Papers:

None