

Chichester District Council

CABINET

8 December 2020

Call In: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

1. Contacts

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2. Recommendation by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

2.1 That the Cabinet reconsider the decision made at its meeting on 3 November 2020 relating to Item 12 Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure taking into account the following comments made by the committee:

3. Consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

3.1 The request fulfilled the requirements listed in part four of the Constitution, paragraph 29 of the Call In Procedure, and was accepted as valid. It was referred to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2020.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee

A) Raises concerns as to whether the matter has been subject to proper consultation with relevant interested parties. The committee raise the following specific issues:

There was no communication with members when WSCC initially invited CDC to join in July 2019, nor when they announced plans on 20th August 2020 (Plans that included all Districts and Boroughs but Chichester). Following member enquiries a report belatedly came to the Environment Panel on Friday 18th September but the 'wrong' recommendation was made i.e. to seek to join ASAP. There was an opportunity for new information / a new report to come to the Environment Panel on Friday 23rd October but that opportunity for further consultation with the Environment Panel was missed. Instead, a whole new report was presented to Cabinet on Tuesday 3rd November which had not been seen or discussed by the Environment Panel.

B) Asks that the Cabinet consider or reconsider whether further delay in seeking to join the scheme could cause significant harm / cost us significant influence.

Scrutiny members expressed concerns that if CDC delay joining much more it will likely be impossible for CDC to do so as a 'Key Delivery Partner' with full voting rights on the Board. Beyond noting that CDC has previously received OLEV money to install 18 EVCPs on our land, the Cabinet report is silent on the possibility of being able to access the "up to £100,000 of funds [that can be] claimed per local authority from The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) On-Street Residential Charging Scheme" (WSCC Award of Contract ref. OKD41).

C) Expressed concerns that the decision runs contrary to CDC's declaration of a climate emergency and undermines our ability to meet the objectives set out in the draft Climate Action Plan

The Scrutiny Committee asks Cabinet to assess these factors specifically in reviewing this decision.

The Cabinet report notes fairly that there is not currently excess demand on our existing 18 EVCPs, but makes no mention of any alternative strategy for stimulating the market for electric vehicles. Indeed, it admits that "currently there are no plans by the Parking Services Team to introduce additional EVCPs across the District." It states that we could join in future as a 'Collaborating Organisation' (i.e. on the same terms as Parish Councils), concluding that there is little to be gained by taking swifter action, but sets out no alternative strategy for hastening the transition to low carbon transport. It fails to demonstrate leadership on this issue beyond celebrating what has already been achieved and undermines the leadership WSCC is displaying in setting a target that will require the installation of hundreds of EVCPs in the District by 2030. The decision demonstrates a real lack of urgency and Scrutiny Committee believes these elements need to be the subject of further and fuller consideration by Cabinet.

3.3 The committee's view was that they agreed with the concerns raised within the call in request (set out in 3.2 above) and resolved that Cabinet be asked to reconsider the decision taking these points into consideration.

4. The Call In Request

- 4.1. The Council's Constitution provides that a decision made by the Cabinet does not come into effect until a call-in period (three clear working days after the decision is notified to members) has elapsed.
- 4.2. During the call-in period the call-in request was received, from Cllr Brown, supported by Cllrs Sharp, Fowler, O'Kelly, Hughes, Bowden, Barrie and Bangert.