

Report to: **Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

Date: **14<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Title: **EV Strategy**

Portfolio Area: **Cllr Lucy Wood**  
**Natural Environment**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken:

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend the content of the draft EV Strategy to the Hub Committee and that officers be requested to undertake a public consultation in line with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Strategy.**

**1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1 The Council adopted 'A Plan for West Devon' in September 2021.
- 1.2 Action NE1.2 commits the council to developing and adopting an EV Strategy.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1. The need for an EV Strategy stems from our need to adequately plan for both our own fleet transition and also to help the borough adapt to rising levels of EV ownership.
- 2.2. A key barrier to the uptake of EVs is the availability of suitable charging infrastructure. The EV strategy reviews the policy context and provides a summary of current and forecast EV uptake obtained from the Devon County Council Draft EV Strategy, which was out for Consultation in November and December 2022.
- 2.3. A forecast of future EV uptake shows that by 2033, EVs are expected to account for most of the vehicles in Devon for the first time. In West Devon it is expected that EV ownership will make up around 61% of the overall vehicle numbers by 2035.
- 2.4. In terms of EV Chargepoint provision (EVCP), it is expected the private sector will deliver a large proportion of charging infrastructure as EV ownership increases. This will largely occur in off-street locations with a higher level of private ownership, due in part to delivery issues over on street EVCPs and the benefits of working in partnership with major chains including sites that provide attractive waiting facilities / amenities.
- 2.5. Our role will be to work with other authorities, in particular DCC, to help deliver charging in less viable locations and on street, which are challenging to deliver on a commercial basis and therefore provided through grant funding, such as the new Government fund, the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure fund.
- 2.6. The Draft Devon EV Strategy includes recommendations that will require co-ordination with partners, some of these are;
  - Fill the gaps in the private sector residential provision
  - Provide on-street residential chargers
  - Test on-street residential pavement gullies
  - Deliver off-street residential hubs
  - Leverage scale through Devon-wide funding applications and procurement
  - Lead on local district co-ordination
- 2.7. For instance, a key area of action for WDBC will be to help build a portfolio of sites, so that the less desirable EV charging sites are packaged up with sites that are more desirable to

charge point operators. This will be to ensure less desirable areas are not left behind.

2.8. Whilst the private sector will provide an increasing number of chargers, forecasts by Devon County Council indicate that public intervention is needed for a proportion of Devon’s EVCPs to meet demand.

2.9. The West Devon EV Strategy has been produced to align with Devon County Councils Emerging EV strategy to demonstrate how West Devon Borough Council will contribute to delivery. It includes actions around mobility in general and around our fleet decarbonisation.

2.10. The EV Strategy proposes a 2023 to 2025 timeframe due to the rapidly changing landscape around EV’s and charging technology. A review will take place in 2025.

### 3. Proposed Way Forward

3.1. It is proposed that the Overview and Scrutiny committee recommend the vision, aims and actions to Hub Committee and that a public consultation is conducted before it is then adopted as an interim strategy. The interim EV Strategy will then be reviewed upon receipt of the final Devon County Council EV Strategy to ensure alignment of actions remain.

### 4. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	This report includes an overview of process in developing the strategy.
Financial implications to include reference to value for money	Y	There are no financial implications as part of this report. The workstreams that will develop out from the action plan will either be resourced internally or funding applications made to support new EV charging infrastructure
Consultation	Y	A Consultation has not been conducted yet, but is planned to be undertaken before formal adoption.

Risk	Y	None
Supporting Corporate Strategy	Y	This report relates to action NE1.2 of A Plan for West Devon
Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact	Y	This report provides an update on the development of an EV strategy which aims to increase the uptake of EV's in the area, thereby helping to reduce transport emissions
<b>Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications</b>		
Equality and Diversity		None as a direct implication of this report
Safeguarding		None as a direct implication of this report
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None as a direct implication of this report
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		None as a direct implication of this report
Other implications		

**Supporting Information**

**Appendices:**

Appendix A – Draft EV Strategy