

# **KENT & MEDWAY ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) DISTRICT NETWORK**

## **SUMMARY REPORT:**

To provide a briefing note to the Climate Change Advisory Board, setting out the Kent and Medway Electric Vehicle (EV) District Network Project, including Medway Council's participation.

## **NATIONAL AND LOCAL EV PICTURE:**

The 'Road to Zero' strategy sets out the Government's ambition in relation to ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEV) including a commitment to end the sale of the new conventional petrol and diesel cars and vans by 2040.

More recently, the Government announced that the phase out date for the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans will be brought forward to 2030, and from 2035 all new cars and vans must be zero emission at the tailpipe. This has positioned the UK at the global forefront of the shift to electric and reflects the Independent Committee on Climate Change's (CCC) advice on what is needed for the UK to end its contribution to climate change by 2050.

Meeting this ambition is going to require a step change in the availability of electric vehicles (EVs) charging infrastructure, also known as chargepoints (or EVCPs). Chargepoints will have to become as ubiquitous, as petrol stations to charge most vehicles.

The council needs to start preparing for this transition and although it is difficult to say how the technology will progress over the next 10 years, it is likely that we will need a network of charging infrastructure across Medway so that our businesses and residents, particularly those without access to off road parking, are not disadvantaged, and the area remains accessible and attractive to visitors.

The Kent & Medway Energy & Low Emissions Strategy (KMELES) has identified that the transition to zero emission vehicles (e.g. electric and hydrogen) is a key action to deliver net-zero targets. To enable this transition and incentivise a greater uptake in electric vehicle (EV) ownership across the county, Medway Council has a strategic role to assess and address residential and business demand for local EV charging infrastructure; with a Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy in development.

Public sector land has the potential to provide multiple locations where EV chargers could be installed individually or as EV charging hubs and this has the potential to provide an additional revenue income stream for the Council.

## **PROJECT BACKGROUND:**

The project aims to deliver a consistent Kent & Medway county-wide public EVCP network across a potential 150 public car park locations throughout the county, including approximately 30 in Medway. At the time of writing the Project Partners are:

- Folkestone & Hythe
- Gravesham
- Medway
- Sevenoaks
- Thanet
- Tonbridge and Malling
- Tunbridge Wells

Using District owned car parks, this will create “charging hubs” - bringing together multiple Local Authority partners to secure a consistent and high value solution for public and business use.

The aim will be to identify and secure available grant funding, maximise private sector investment and secure a revenue income stream for public sector organisations in the county, who make available land/car parking spaces for EV charging. This project acts to bring together supply and demand, facilitating the procurement of charging infrastructure and provision by Medway Council and District councils from private sector specialist suppliers. It is intended that the project will

This project will:

- Respond to demand from residents who have no off-street parking by identifying suitable locations for EV charging hubs
- Address infrastructure gaps in rural locations where the private sector is less likely to invest
- Meet the carbon reduction and air quality targets within the KMELES and emerging Medway Council Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).

### **FUNDING:**

The Council will not be required to provide any funding for this opportunity. The project will operate under a Concessionary Contract over a period of 12-years, reducing the risk for the Council, whilst providing a revenue share from the use of the EVCPs. The specific terms will be agreed following the procurement activity to select a chosen EVCP Supplier. A long-term partnership is sought to incentivise suppliers to invest in the network and to ensure continuity of Supplier for the years ahead.

### **STATUTORY / LEGAL OBLIGATIONS:**

There is no statutory obligation for the Local Authority to provide EVCP provision. However, it should be noted that the Government are seeking to step up combined efforts with Local Authorities on charging infrastructure and deliver the infrastructure that is required to make a mass switch to electric vehicles over the next decade. This will also support the Council’s Climate Change ambitions.

### **PROCUREMENT PROJECT MANAGEMENT:**

The procurement process will be managed Kent County Council (KCC) and Kent Commercial Services (KCS). Officers from the Transport and Parking Service and Business Change will represent Medway’s interests, with tender responses due from potential suppliers by 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. No further resources will be required which may impact the delivery of this procurement.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been produced for each LA to give a level of commitment for the EVCP project, to engage fully in the process and to enter the procurement process with the intention of procuring a supplier and signing a contract.