

# **CLIMATE CHANGE MEMBER ADVISORY BOARD**

## **ACTIONS FROM MEETING ON 8 DECEMBER 2020**

- 2.1 Item 4 of previous minutes be updated to reflect the discussion of the cycle lane on Rochester Bridge.

### **Minutes updated - CLOSED**

- 4.1 Present EV strategy at a future meeting.
- 4.3 Officers will incorporate a superfast charging workstream into the Roadmap with progress incorporated into future updates.
- 4.4 Kent wide EV Charging network.  
A request was made for details regarding the length of concession contract. A query was raised whether discussions have been held with other fleet operators, such as Southern Water, who may be interested in the scheme as it covers such a broad geographical area.  
Query raised whether an app will be considered for the network to make more attractive to the end user and details such as this factored into tender documents. Suggestion made to contact the Infrastructure Projects Authority who can advise on Public Private Partnerships.  
Officers to include these points in discussions with KCC on the Kent wide network.
- 4.5 Officers to generate a report on the Kent and Medway Electric Vehicle District Network scheme and share with the group.
- 4.6 A request was made to receive the criteria for selecting appropriate charging sites and a query was made about how kerbside charging would operate in areas where on street parking was limited.
- 4.7 A request was made to include estimated timescales for installation of charge points and consideration to be given to alternative future technology such as hydrogen and driverless vehicles. Officers to update the EV roadmap and provide more robust timescales as and when the different workstreams are further advanced.

**Medway's EV Officer Working group continues to meet on alternate months to progress the EV workstream.**

**Responses to the EV charge point survey have continued to be received and analysed, with 177 received to date. Officers have worked with the Business Intelligence Team to create an EV reporting dashboard using Power BI to help illustrate and monitor these survey responses.**

**The responses, including suggested locations for charging points, and separate evidence of predicted EV uptake scenarios are being used to inform a new 5 year Medway Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy and Implementation Plan. CENEX have been appointed to develop the Strategy by August 2021. The feasibility of introducing super fast charge points will be considered as part of this work as will a review of options for on street charging provisions where on street parking is limited. CENEX will be asked to provide advice on future technologies, within the narrative of the ULEV strategy. Following the development of the Strategy, officers will share an update with the Board later in the year.**

**Officers have continued to engage with KCC as part of the Kent and Medway EV District Network Project, involving a consistent network of EV charging points being implemented within council- owned car parks (including 30+ locations in Medway)**

and funded as part of a concessionary arrangement (see attached 'Medway Council Briefing Paper\_EV District Network\_April 2021'). All council-owned public car park sites chosen were considered as part of the EV District Network project, but those car park sites earmarked for development, subject to a planning application or already involved within other Council projects were excluded. The concession contract is intended to run for 12 years. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Deputy Chief Executive during Q4, with Procurement Board and Legal approval alongside to advance the project. Clarification is being sought from the Project Coordinator at KCC to determine whether discussions have been held with other fleet operators to date. The inclusion of an end user app has been raised through the tender specification and details will be provided via each tender return, to be considered from mid-late May 2021. Applications from suppliers are due to be scored during Q1 2021/22 (Medway will be represented on the countywide scoring panel), in anticipation of contracts potentially being signed during in June 2021. Phasing of charging infrastructure will be subject to individual terms to be agreed. A further report on the Kent & Medway Electric Vehicle Charging Point (EVCP) Network project will be shared with the Climate Change Member Advisory Board further to the outcome of the tender process in mid-late May 2021 and next stages of the project, via a Gateway 3 Report, to be presented to Procurement Board for their perusal.

Officers are progressing a separate EV project involving installation of 34 charging points within three council-owned car parks in Medway; Rochester MSCP, Station Road, Rainham and Commercial Road, Strood. Medway have been successful in their bid to the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) to fund 75% of the capital costs, with the remaining 25% to be secured through the Local Transport Plan. It is anticipated that the charging points will be installed by Summer 2021.

A High Level Audit setting out recommendations for Phase One of the Re:fit energy efficiency programme, including EV charge points, was presented to Property Board at the end of Q4 2020/21 by the newly appointed contractor SSE. Following a further presentation to the Financial Director in early Q1 2021/22 the recommendations will be presented to Cabinet.

Further updates on the EV Strategy progress will be programmed into future board meeting schedules.

4.9 Planning service to bring forward a paper to a future board meeting setting out how the Local Plan will support the demand for EV charging infrastructure. Planning service to provide update as part of wider update on developing policies.

**Planning service update to be programmed into future board meeting schedule.**

6.2 Officers to provide case studies of participants who have saved through the Solar Together Kent scheme.

6.3 Request made to understand the factors that may lead to a resident declining the installation offer, for example cost or inconvenience.

**iChoosr anticipate that information on 6.2 and 6.3 will be made available during Summer 2021, post installation.**

6.6 Circulate link to the Kent 2050: Road to Net Zero conference.

## Link circulated with minutes of previous meeting - CLOSED

- 6.10 Request made for a year-on-year tree planting programme to be taken forward as part of a new Medway Tree Week. Communications team to publicise Urban Tree Challenge Fund planting and explore possibility of Medway Tree Week.
- 6.14 Consider possible future funding opportunities to plant specialist native trees as with Fort Amherst planting walnut trees for harvest. Priority being to increase tree stock for now.

**The Climate Change Action plan includes an action to develop a Tree Strategy for Medway and funded action plan, setting clear actions and targets to increase tree canopy cover and encourage community action. The draft of the strategy is being finalised following a review by officers and will then follow the appropriate governance approvals. The Strategy uses the findings of the successful tree canopy coverage study in Q2, led by the Greenspaces Development team and undertaken by volunteers from Medway's Urban Greenspaces Forum, which identified a baseline coverage of 16.7% of land area in Medway.**

**The Urban Tree Challenge Fund was promoted via social media. Further to some incidents of anti-social behaviour, signs were put up to deter any further incidents and to explain the benefits of planting more trees across Medway (see graphic below).**



- 7.2 Include the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and Electric Vehicle items discussed within the meeting in future communications.

**Urban Tree Challenge Fund promoted as above. The success of the OZEV bid has only just been announced and will be promoted accordingly.**

- 7.3 Raise the profile of the climate change work alongside communications on the 2025 City of Culture Bid. Also increased messaging for residents on the disposal of facemasks.

**An action has been included in the emerging Climate Change Action Plan to ensure that climate change is embedded within the Cultural Strategy and City of Culture Bid and communications opportunities will be progressed in the next quarter. Senior officers have been asked to consider what could be achieved across the agendas in the run up to COP26.**

**Correct disposal of face coverings has been promoted on social media (see graphic below).**



- 8.1 If the bid to DEFRA's Air Quality fund (which Medway supported) is successful, include details of the project in future communications.

**Medway have supported a bid with other local authorities in Kent for funding from DEFRA's Air Quality Fund which has been successful. The project is to develop a digital resource for primary schools across Kent which educates children aged 5 to 11 years and their parents about air pollution. The resource will include animated learning with an interactive storybook adventure including gaming elements to earn rewards and unlock further information. Communications will follow to support the launch of the resource.**

- 8.2 Report back on discussions with the University of Kent regarding a project looking at anti-idling and nudge behaviour messaging, at the next meeting.

**The Environmental Protection team have been in discussions with the University of Kent regarding a 'Switch off Signage Project in Rainham' which would expand on work that the University has previously undertaken with Canterbury City Council. The initial costings which we have received are in excess of our current budget. We are therefore going to work with the University to produce a 'shovel ready project' to be in a position to submit a bid to the DEFRA Air Quality Grant later this year. We have also investigated the option of just putting up anti-idling signs in Rainham, however due to the amount of Covid-19 signage which is in currently in place, there is not currently any free street space for additional signage.**

- 8.3 Continue to identify and progress appropriate sites for wilding in cemeteries in Medway.

**This action is included in the draft Climate Change Action Plan for progressing. No further update at the moment.**

- 8.4 Cllr Thompson raised awareness of the possibility of partnering with drone companies looking to trial drone deliveries to properties which could contribute to

removing vehicle movements from Medway's roads. The Chair will discuss with RH how this may be taken forward.

**It is clear that drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are an increasingly familiar aspect of work and life in the UK today. During a time when organisations are under pressure to be more efficient, innovative and ambitious in how they deliver services, UAVs offer a unique lens on the world below.**

**The use of drones will be covered within the emerging Smart Cities strategy and options are being drawn up as to how and importantly, when, to utilise this form of technology in future years to optimise Services within the Council. The Business Change team are exploring opportunities for their application.**