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To: Scrutiny Committee - 23 June 2020

Subject: Update on Parish Electric Vehicle Charger Project

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary:

This report updates Members on the Parish Electric Vehicle Charger Project which has been developed to install Electric Vehicle (EV) Chargers in Parish locations such as village halls and community hubs. Additionally, it outlines the criteria used to target locations.

Recommendation: Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

1. Background

- 1.1 Kent County Council (KCC) is committed to helping the residents and businesses of Kent switch to more sustainable modes of travel such as walking, cycling and using public transport as outlined in the Kent Environment Strategy. However, it is recognised that many people will still rely on private vehicles for their transport needs. Where this is necessary, KCC wants to help enable the use of low carbon transport modes, such as electric vehicles (EVs).
- 1.2 Providing adequate electric vehicle charge-points across the county is part of KCC's strategic plan to achieve net carbon neutrality in Kent by 2050, set out within the (soon to be considered for approval) Kent & Medway Energy and Low Emissions Strategy (ELES). While there is private investment available for providing charge-points in densely populated locations or on the main roads, often the smaller communities will be missed.
- 1.3 This project, part of a first phase of a longer-term approach involving communities, public sector and businesses, aims to serve those communities and provide publicly available charge-points for local residents and visitors on Parish land, namely village halls and community hubs. This project is not designed to serve a large audience and draw users into a village location simply to charge their vehicle. Therefore, the charging provision will be designed accordingly with slower charging speeds supplied, suiting overnight charging and top up charges for those making a trip to use the village amenities.
- 1.4 KCC has other projects in development to tackle the rapid charging requirements in larger towns and along the strategic road network.

2. Project Proposals

- 2.1 Due to the limited level of funding available the project will begin with a limited small number of targeted locations in Kent These areas have been selected based on the following evidence-based criteria:
- Gaps in existing EV charge-point locations
 - Gaps in future EV charge-point plans in the local area
 - Population density
 - Air Quality Management Areas
 - Best locations to encourage EV uptake
 - Possible links to Solar arrays to provide low carbon energy
 - Power capacity on the network
- 2.2 It is expected that 7kwh & 22kwh chargers will be selected as these will best serve local residents and visitors. 7kwh chargers are often used for overnight charging and 22kwh can be used for a faster top up charge so will suit visitors to the location.
- 2.3 It should be noted that available power capacity, civils works and expected users of the chargers will help shape which chargers are used. Due to power constraints it will not be feasible to install chargers in some locations without considerable cost. The project will be flexible and seek solutions to maximise value for money and available match funding where possible
- 2.4 KCC will procure one supplier from the KCS framework to install and maintain the chargers. This will provide consistency, value for money and simplicity for the Parishes. It is not expected that all chargers will generate a high amount of revenue, some may lose money. It is important that the collective revenue generated support all chargers to ensure all are well maintained and operational KCC will ensure the chargers are maintained into the future through the procurement and some of the revenue generated, from users paying to charge their vehicles, will be used by KCC to cover operating costs and investment to expand the charging network to other Parishes.
- 2.5 The rest of the revenue will be offered back to the host Parish to reinvest into their local community.

3. Indicative programme:

- 3.1 The project must be completed by end of March 2021 due to funding constraints.

June 29th – August 30th, 2020	Parishes will be invited to bid
August 31st – October 16th, 2020	Applications are scored for suitability and site assessments carried out. Parishes to be informed if it is possible to progress with their location. Scoring criteria are available on request.

October 19th - February 28th, 2020	Chargers are installed and tested.
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4. Funding and Expansion.

- 4.1 The project has an award of £60,000 from the DFT LTP funding. This is a relatively small amount and is likely to supply chargers for 10-15 locations.
- 4.2 Additional funding is being sought which will extend the number of chargers and number of locations the project is able to provide..
- 4.3 In the longer term, a procurement framework will be developed by Kent Commercial Services on behalf of KCC which will be open to all the public sector and parishes. This approach will drive value for money for everyone.

Recommendation

Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the content of the report.

Appendix 1: **Electric Vehicle charge-point scheme: Questions and Answers**