

ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 43

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Electric Vehicle Charging Points		
Date of Meeting:	24 September 2009		
Report of:	Director of Environment		
Contact Officer:	Name:	David Low	Tel: 29 - 2455
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Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	Regency, St Peters & North Laine		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE.

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 As part of our ongoing sustainable transport strategy in Brighton & Hove and to support improvements to air quality it is proposed to commence the installation of on-street charging points for electric vehicles in the city. Charging points installed through this project will be available to members of the public, and will also assist any future proposals for the council to pilot individual vehicles within its own fleet, to adopt the use of more sustainable technologies. The project will be supported by funding from the (EU) Civitas Archimedes project.
- 1.2 The project will test the impact of making available on-street charging points to the ownership and usage of electric vehicles. The locations set out in this report, with the exception of those in London, are believed to be the first on-street charging points installed in the country. This has also required the involvement of the Department for Transport (DfT) in gaining the necessary authorisation for the new signing required for the implementation of the Traffic Orders. This is thought to be the first use of the new signing and lining in the country outside London.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Cabinet Member gives approval to proceed with the introduction of the Electric Vehicle Charging Points scheme in Brighton & Hove as set out in this report.
- 2.2 That the Cabinet Member (having taken into account all the duly made representations and objections) approves the Brighton & Hove Various Controlled Parking Zones consolidation order 2008 amendment order no. *200* (as advertised namely:
- The provision of two on-street electric vehicle charging points to be created in Bartholomews (north side of the northern arm).
 - The provision of two on-street electric vehicle charging points to be created in Ditchling Road (west side, between Oxford Place and Oxford Street.)

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 There has been, and continues to be, considerable interest in the use of electrically powered vehicles; particularly as an alternative to petrol/diesel powered vehicles where public transport, walking and cycling would not be appropriate. The recent fluctuations in the price of oil have further increased the awareness of, and need for, alternative sources of vehicle power.
- 3.2 Electric vehicles produce zero emissions on the road and therefore offer substantial advantages over conventionally powered vehicles in terms of air quality for town and city centres. In addition, if the electricity used can be generated from sustainable sources then there are further additional benefits to be gained.
- 3.3 Brighton & Hove City Council, as part of its commitment to sustainable transport, is leading by example in promoting the use of electric vehicles. The council are installing, on a trial basis, the charging point's infrastructure needed to support the wider use of electric vehicles in the city. These on-street charging points are intended to be available for use by the public; and will assist the greater use, and change to electric vehicles within the council fleet.
- 3.4 The first two locations proposed as part of this report, will be in Ditchling Road and Bartholomews, and have been carefully selected to be situated centrally, easily accessible, and in high visibility positions which it is hoped will encourage and promote the wider use of electric vehicles. They are also within the Brighton & Hove City Council Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) and Civitas corridor, where the use of electric vehicles with zero tailpipe emissions, will be of benefit.
- 3.5 Future on-street charging points are planned for other locations within the city, with the aim of having a minimum of five sites, each containing two charging points, in operation by the end of 2009.
- 3.6 It is intended to further extend the coverage for electric vehicles by installing charging points at council premises such as Kings House in Hove and Hollingdean Depot, where they would be available for use by council vehicles.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 The Traffic Regulation Order was advertised between 22 August 2009 and 14 September 2009.
- 4.2 The Ward Councillors for the area were consulted, as were the statutory consultees such as the emergency services.
- 4.3 Notices were also put on street, and were also published in The Argus newspaper on 22 August 2009. Detailed plans and the order were available to view at Hove Library, Jubilee Library, and at the City Direct Offices at Bartholomew House and Hove Town Hall.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The full cost of advertising the order and having the lining and signing amended will be covered from the existing Civitas budget.
- 5.2 Once the Charging Points are being used, there will be an ongoing implication for revenue budgets for the supply of the electricity, unless there is a complete re-charge to users.

Finance Officer Consulted: Karen Brookshaw

Date: 21/08/09

Legal Implications:

- 5.3 This Order has been advertised in accordance with the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. The Council before making the order must consider all duly made unresolved objections. In limited circumstances it must hold public inquiries and may do so otherwise. It is usually possible for proposed order to be modified, providing any amendments do not increase the effects of the advertised proposals. The Council also has powers to make the orders in part and defer decisions on the remainder. The order may not be made until the objections periods have expired and cannot be made more than 2 years after the notices first proposing it was first published. The order may not come into force before the date on which it is intended to publish the notice stating that it has been made. After making the order, the steps which the Council must take include notifying objectors and putting in place the necessary traffic signs.
- 5.4 Relevant Human Rights Act rights to which the Council should have regard in exercising its traffic management powers are the right to respect for the family and private life and the right to protection of property. These are qualified rights and therefore there can be interference with them in appropriate circumstances.

Lawyer Consulted:

Elizabeth Culbert

Date: 26/08/09

Equalities Implications:

- 5.5 The proposed measures will be of benefit to users of electric vehicles, and will not materially disadvantage other road users.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.6 The electric vehicle charging points will encourage the wider ownership and usage of electric vehicles, which will result in air quality improvements. The charging points will be powered solely by electricity from sustainable sources, so there should also be a reduction in carbon emissions.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.7 The proposed amendments to restrictions will not have any implications on the prevention of crime and disorder.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.8 Any risks will be monitored as part of the overall project management, but none have been identified.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.9 The electric vehicle charging points will provide parking and charging of electric vehicles to users wishing to use the facilities.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The Civitas Archimedes project requires that the on-street charging points should be installed the section of central Brighton designated the Civitas area. The proposed site(s) fall within that area, and are in high-visibility, easily accessible locations designed to encourage their access by the users of electric vehicles, and best publicise the charging point scheme to potential users.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 To seek approval to proceed with the Electric Vehicle Charging Points project.
- 7.2 To seek approval of the Traffic Order with amendments after taking into consideration of the duly made representations and objections.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Appendix A – Plans showing the proposals

Documents In Members' Rooms

1. Summary of representations received

Background Documents

None