

## REPORT

**SUBJECT: Installation of charging points for electric cars in MCC public car parks**

**MEETING: Individual Cabinet Member decision**

**DATE: 14<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: Countywide**

### 1. PURPOSE

To seek approval for the installation of charging points for electric cars in MCC car parks in the county.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the council support the installation of an electrical car charging point in Welsh Street Car Park Chepstow. To be sited in the free car park area and the electrical supply to be taken from the MCC Hub building.
- 2.2 That subsequent installations be approved by the Head of Operations, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet member where the installation is at no cost to the Council.

### 3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The authority undertook a major review of car parking in 2014 (Cabinet on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 and 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016). The report included a recommendation that the Council investigate the installation of electric car charging points in an MCC car park in each of the main towns.
- 3.2 The authority has been approached by a Monmouthshire based community interest company seeking permission to install an electric car charging point in Welsh Street Car park, Chepstow and depending upon lessons learnt, to install further charging points in suitable MCC car parks within Monmouthshire.
- 3.3 The community interest company are accredited installers of both domestic and workplace electric car charge points who have their own car charging network for public use and have experience of running them.
- 3.4 The company does not require a financial contribution from MCC towards the cost of the installation and the authority will be reimbursed for the electricity consumed (usage is monitored remotely by the company). However they do require a 5 year lease agreement to allow them sufficient time to recover their investment/installation costs.

- 3.5 The initial site identified as suitable for an electric vehicle charging point is in Welsh Street car park, Chepstow in the 30 minute free parking area, taking an electric supply from the Hub building.
- 3.6 Cars using the charging point will be granted free parking whilst on charge (this will often be longer than the 30 minutes free parking granted to other vehicles parked in this area).
- 3.7 The user will incur a charge for use of the charging point. The user will purchase tokens locally, from a local shop, or potentially from the Hub (under discussion)
- 3.8 The charging equipment will be the responsibility of the company and any queries relating to its operation and maintenance will be the responsibility of the company installing the equipment.
- 3.9 Electricity consumption will be monitored remotely by the company and MCC will be reimbursed for energy consumed at £0.1 per kWh.
- 3.10 The company will monitor usage of the equipment in order to evaluate the success of the scheme. This will provide useful data and feedback to inform subsequent installations.

#### **4. REASONS**

- 4.1 This proposal implements the decision taken by Cabinet to investigate charging point options at no cost to the authority.
- 4.2 The number of electric vehicles on the road is increasing significantly (75% in the last year) and this is likely to increase further as the range of electric vehicles increases. The availability of charging points is a major drawback to the growth of electric vehicles. Introduction of charging points in MCC car parks supports the use of electric cars with inherent sustainability and environment benefits compared to fossil fuels (diesel and petrol). It will also encourage visitors with zero emission cars to visit our towns and local attractions.

#### **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:**

The cost of supply and installation of the equipment is borne by the company. MCC will be reimbursed for electricity costs. Although not necessary, the Hub may sell tokens which will generate a small income dependent upon numbers sold (typically this might be £1 per token). A vehicle on charge will use one of the parking spaces in the free parking area. This will reduce availability (a full charge may take 3 hours) but there is no loss of income to the authority.

#### **6. FUTURE GENERATIONS and EQUALITY ASSESSMENT**

This installation will encourage EV users into Chepstow town centre, and the learning from this can be rolled out to other car parks and will ensure

they are fit for purpose as the anticipated demand for EV charging points increases. EVs are beneficial to the local environment since they do not produce any pollution. There will be the loss of one short term free parking space which may have an adverse impact on someone.

**SAFEGUARDING ASSESSMENT:**

**There are no safeguarding implications associated with the recommendations within this report.**

**7. CONSULTEES:**

SLT

Cabinet members

**8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:**

Reports to Cabinet regarding management of car parks (September 2014 and July 2016).

**9. AUTHORS**

Roger Hoggins, Head of Operations

CONTACT DETAILS: [rogerhoggins@monmouthshire.gov.uk](mailto:rogerhoggins@monmouthshire.gov.uk)