

NET ZERO 2030 - LOW EMISSION AND ELECTRIC VEHICLE STRATEGY

Cleaner and Greener Advisory Committee - 29 June 2021

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Planning & Regulatory Services

Status: For Decision

Also considered by:

- Cabinet - 8 July 2021

Key Decision: Yes

This report supports the Key Aim of: The Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030 made in November 2019.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Margot McArthur

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Recommendation to Development and Conservation Advisory Committee:

That it be recommended to Cabinet to agree the Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy

Recommendation to Cabinet:

To agree the Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy

Reason for recommendation: To work towards the Council's commitment to Net Zero 2030 made in November 2019.

Introduction

- 1 The Council have committed to working towards achieving Net Zero emissions by 2030 on Council assets and services.
- 2 It has also been agreed that the Council will be a "community leader" and encourage low carbon measures across the District through education, best practice, incentives, policy and opportunities. This includes working collaboratively with Kent County Council, Parish and Town Councils, Local Interest Groups and the Local Government Association.

- 3 The Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy (LEEVs) sets out the Council's position and ambitions with regards to the electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the District and the Council's vehicle fleet.
- 4 The Strategy will help the Council achieve the following Net Zero 2030 Actions:
 - Promote low carbon travel
 - Improve the electric vehicle charging network across the District
 - Continue our transition to a zero-carbon emissions vehicle fleet wherever practicable
- 5 The Council have also endorsed the Kent and Medway Energy and Low Emission Strategy (ELES) which identifies 10 priority actions for Kent, including a priority related to transport and travel. The ELES acknowledges the role that low emission and electric vehicles play in reducing carbon emissions across the county and commits to working with local authorities to improve the charging infrastructure.
- 6 Cabinet are asked to agree the Strategy as a starting point for the Low Emission and Electric Vehicle work. The Strategy will be updated as opportunities arise and with new advancements in technology. Therefore, it will remain as a "live" document and part of the ongoing Net Zero 2030 work and Movement Strategy.

Background

- 7 Transport remains the largest carbon emitting sector in the UK and accounts for 63% of total carbon emissions in Sevenoaks District. For SDC, transport accounted for over 70% of the Council's total emissions last year.
- 8 Low emission and electric vehicles will play an important role in reducing transport related emissions, alongside reducing the need to travel and using alternative modes of transport.
- 9 In March 2021, the Government confirmed 2030 as the phase out date for new petrol and diesel cars and vans, with all vehicles being required to have a "significant zero emissions capability" from 2030 and be 100% zero emissions from 2035¹.

Electric Vehicle Charging in Sevenoaks District

- 10 Sevenoaks District currently has the highest level of registered electric vehicle ownership in Kent and the number of electric vehicles has seen significant growth since 2014. This trend is expected to continue to 2030 and beyond.

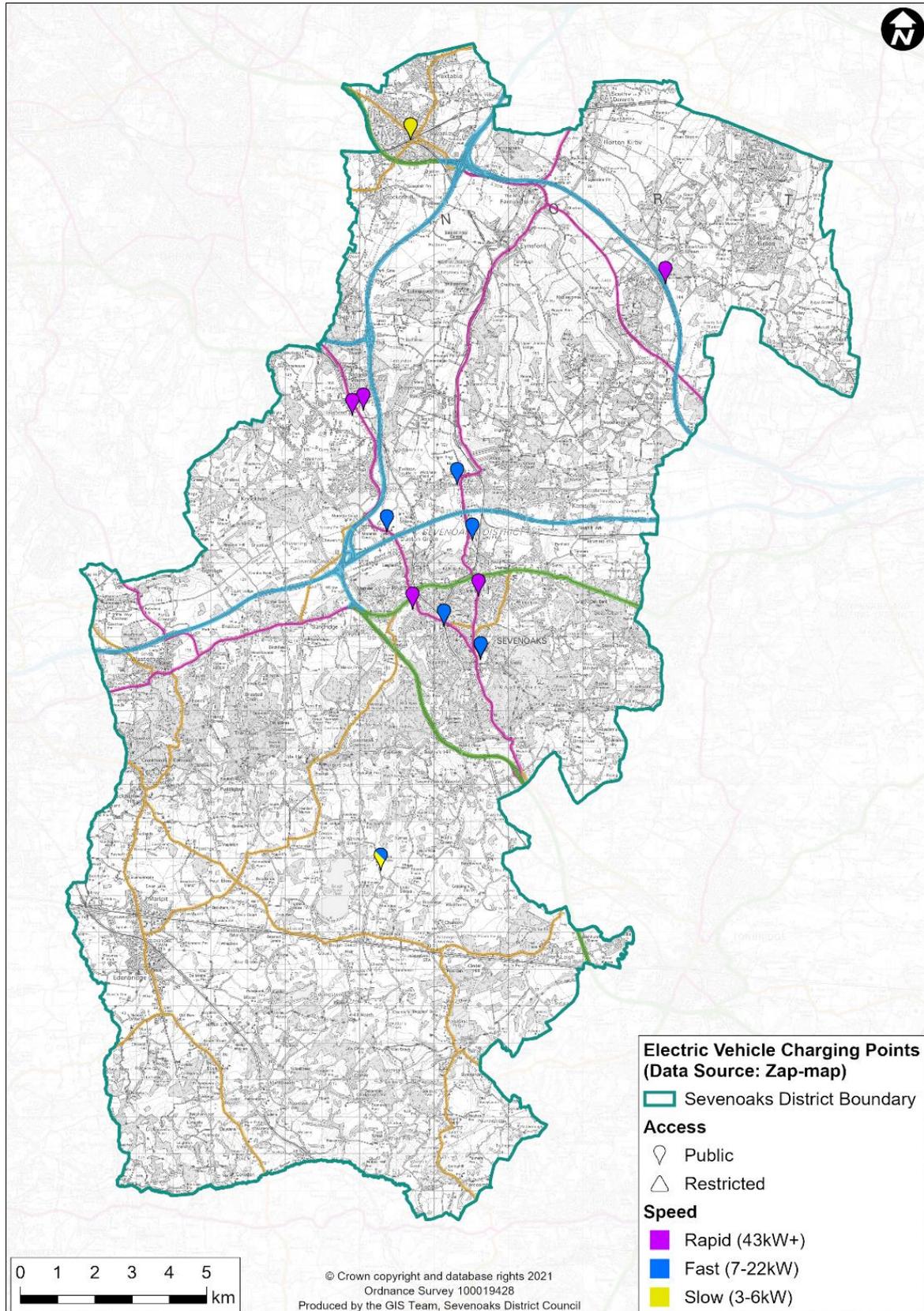
¹ Source: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consulting-on-ending-the-sale-of-new-petrol-diesel-and-hybrid-cars-and-vans/outcome/ending-the-sale-of-new-petrol-diesel-and-hybrid-cars-and-vans-government-response>

- 11 Currently the District has publically available charging points in 12 locations, which is one of the lowest in Kent. Figure 1 shows the type and distribution of charging points within the District.
- 12 The majority of charging points are clustered around the north of Sevenoaks Town. There are none around Edenbridge and only limited facilities within Swanley.
- 13 The Council has installed 10 charging points within SDC owned car parks as part of the redevelopment of the Sevenoaks Town and Bradbourne car parks. We have also committed to installing additional accessible charging points across other car parks under SDC control and at the Council depot and offices.
- 14 We will continue to work with partners, including the Kent County Council Transport Innovations team, to install new charging points across the district and to assist residents, businesses and communities to install their own points.
- 15 There are a number of SDC policy and strategy documents which relate to electric vehicle charging including the Movement Strategy, the Local Plan and the Air Quality Action Plan. The improvement of the electric vehicle charging network will be a key component in encouraging sustainable movement within and through the District and improving air quality.

Sevenoaks District Council Fleet

- 16 The majority of the Council's carbon emissions arise from the Council's fleet of vehicles accounting for over 70% of the total emissions last year.
- 17 We have already begun reducing the carbon emissions from our existing fleet. The fleet consists of 93 vehicles, 4 of which are fully electric. We are investigating the replacement of the vehicle fleet with low carbon alternatives. We will invest in electric cars and vehicles where feasible and also consider future fuel technologies such as hydrogen.
- 18 We will also continually review how our vehicles operate and seek to identify future savings. This includes the new waste collection round review, which aims to decrease the mileage we cover in the vehicles by at least 5%, therefore reducing carbon emissions.

Figure 1: Electric Vehicle Charging Points within Sevenoaks District



Ambitions and Actions

- 19 The Strategy identifies ambitions and actions. The Council will:
- Improve the District's electric vehicle network by increasing the number of charging points within SDC owned car parks and on SDC owned land.
 - Support suitable schemes and projects to install charging points throughout the District.
 - Ensure new developments make provision for electric vehicle charging through Local Planning Policy.
 - Continue to work with Kent County Council, and other partners, to explore new charging options.
 - Implement ways to reduce the carbon emissions from the fleet including through reducing fleet mileage and replacing the existing fleet with electric and low carbon alternatives, where feasible and as soon as possible.
 - Support residents, businesses and communities to install suitable charging points including through providing information on available grants and funding opportunities.
 - Encourage the replacement of traditional combustion engines and low emission vehicles with fully electric vehicles within the District.

Next Steps

- 20 Officers will continue to work with partners to achieve the ambitions and actions set out in the Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy and therefore the Net Zero 2030 Actions.
- 21 The Strategy will be updated and reviewed where necessary to take account of changing technologies, circumstances and new opportunities.

Other options Considered and/or rejected

The Council have made a commitment to Net Zero 2030 including relevant actions for 2021-22.

Key Implications

Financial

Any cost will be met out of the existing budget.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

Net Zero 2030 and Environmental Impact

The Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy supports the Councils Net Zero 2030 work.

Conclusion

The Council has made a Net Zero 2030 commitment and the Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy supports this commitment for the Council emissions as well as emissions across the District

Appendices

Low Emission and Electric Vehicle Strategy 2021

Background Papers

None

Richard Morris

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