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## **Update on Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure in Sevenoaks District**

**To: Sevenoaks Joint Transportation Board – March 2024**

**Main Portfolio Area: Growth, Environment & Transport**

**By: Tim Middleton, Networks Innovations Manager, KCC**

**Classification: For Information**

**Electoral Division: County Wide**

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**Summary: This report provides an update on Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure in Sevenoaks**

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### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This report gives a broad overview of the EV charging network in Sevenoaks and wider context for Kent. It provides a look at Kent County Council's (KCC) role in ensuring residents and businesses are able to switch to electric vehicles.
- 1.2. It looks at the current numbers of EV chargers in Sevenoaks and outlines the developments that have occurred since KCC's allocation of local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding.

### **2. On-Street Electric Vehicles Charging Infrastructure**

- 2.1. Electric Vehicle (EV) sales are growing in the UK and the demand for charging infrastructure is rising even in light of recent announcements to push back the date from which petrol and diesel vehicles can be sold to 2035. Demand will still be driven by the Government's Zero Emission Vehicle mandate requiring 80% of vehicles sold in 2030 to be EV. This is not traditional refuelling as we know it. The speed, and therefore price, of charging varies from the slowest 3kwh up to a potential 350kwh. This could be the difference between charging in 10 hours or charging in 10 minutes.
- 2.2. Industry data suggests the vast numbers of EV owners choose to charge at home if they have access to a home charger. It is convenient and provides the lowest cost option. VAT on electricity is paid at 5% at home but 20% on the public network - arguably penalising those who do not have access to off street parking.
- 2.3. In order to help the transition to electrification, with all the carbon and air quality benefits this would bring, KCC have developed an EV infrastructure programme to install EV charging points across the county.

- 2.4. In March 2022 the Government Published their Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy and released some Pilot funding to go alongside this.
- 2.5. The Government has now launched the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund for Highway Authorities to apply for in their region. This is primarily focused on providing resident charging to those without off street parking. The funding is to deliver against a Regional EV strategy, in collaboration with District/Borough Authorities.
- 2.6. KCC's LEVI funding allocation is set at £12,081,000.
- 2.7. In January 2024 KCC's Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee determined that KCC would apply for their allocation and look to implement EV chargers across the county. A broad aspiration is to provide up to 10,000 sockets over 10 years and to grow the network in line with demand.
- 2.8. It is anticipated that between 600 – 1000 EV chargepoints could be delivered through the LEVI project in Sevenoaks District by 2035.
- 2.9. Procurement will begin in 2024 with first charger installs expected in 2025.
- 2.10. In January 2024 the following public chargers were available to use. (DfT Electric Vehicle Device statistics) Source: <https://maps.dft.gov.uk/ev-charging-map/index.html>

District	Total public charging devices	Total public <b>rapid</b> charging devices	Total public <b>standard</b> charging devices	Charging devices per 100,000 population
Ashford	70	7	63	53
Canterbury	75	20	55	48
Dartford	93	40	53	80
Dover	98	27	71	84
F&H	137	21	116	124
Gravesham	61	6	55	57
Maidstone	71	31	40	40
Sevenoaks	43	16	27	36
Swale	70	18	52	46
Thanet	44	17	27	31
T&M	69	20	49	52
T Wells	39	13	26	34
Total	870	236	634	

- 2.11. It should be noted that simply installing chargers does not necessarily mean they are being well used, maintained or are in strategically important locations and at the "right" speed. All these factors must work together to create a coherent and useful charging network.
- 2.12. KCC's EV charge point programme consist of the below projects:

<u>The Kent EV Network (Kent 600)</u>	A multi-partner framework is installing 7kw chargers in 150 car park locations around Kent under a concession model. 200 EVCP's have been installed to date with a further 200 in development. All District/Borough Authority Councils are able to join the framework and to date 6 have either joined or intend to join in the coming weeks.
<u>The LEVI Pilot project</u>	Delivering 100-150kw ultra rapid charging across 3 locations to test technologies, provide learning to the Department for Transport (DfT) and create a revenue income to support the wider EV network.
<u>The Rapid Taxi charger Project</u>	Installing 28 x 50 kw rapid chargers for the taxi community to encourage a switch to EV across the county. To date 24 EVCP's have been installed.
<u>The Parish charger Network</u>	Set to install up to 100, 7kw EVCP's in Parish communities across Kent in response to market failure in rural locations in the county. To date 46 EVCP's have been installed.
<u>Ultra Rapid Charging Hubs</u>	A project looking to create ultra rapid EVCP hubs on KCC owned land along the Strategic Road Network including A-roads. In development with internal Governance decisions required.

- 2.13. The above projects have focused primarily on off-street charge points, for instance in local authority owned car parks. The LEVI project will aim to substantially increase the numbers of on-street chargers available to residents in Kent.
- 2.14. Any EV charge point delivery, it will not be in isolation, but to complement existing projects. The below prioritisation has been provisionally developed to define network planning and site selection:

Priority 1	Off Street Car Parks
Priority 2	On Street "Standard" 7.7kw chargers
Priority 3	Lamp Column 3-5kw Chargers
Priority 4	Other areas of influence (workplace charging, peer to peer charging, rapid charger hub deployment)

### 3. Conclusions

- 3.1. The LEVI application will be made in 2024 with chargers expected to begin installation across the county in 2025 on a 10 year delivery programme.
- 3.2. Localised charger projects off street continue in Sevenoaks and will seek to deliver chargers in the District car parks.

### 4. Recommendation(s)

- 4.1. For information

### 5. Background Information

Future demand for EV Infrastructure Survey – Sevenoaks District Council

<https://cde.sevenoaks.gov.uk/documents/s54777/09%20-%20EV%20Infrastructure%20Study-%20Report%20SDC%202023%204.pdf?J=4>

KCC Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee (11<sup>th</sup> January 2024)

[ETCC meeting](#)