

Title of meeting:	Cabinet Member for Transport
Date of meeting:	14 th September 2023
Subject:	Draft Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy - Approval to Consult
Report by:	Kerri Farnsworth, Interim Director of Regeneration
Report Author:	Gemma White, Transport Strategy Team Leader
Wards affected:	All
Key decision:	No
Full Council decision:	No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report seeks approval to commence public consultation on the draft Portsmouth Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (EVI) Strategy (Appendix A).

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Transport:

- 2.1 Approves the content of the draft Portsmouth Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, detailed in Appendix A, for public consultation.**

3. Background

- 3.1 The Portsmouth Transport Strategy¹ (Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4)) is a statutory document required of each Local Transport Authority (LTA). The Portsmouth Transport Strategy sets out the long-term strategy, policies and schemes to address the transport challenges and deliver transport improvements. A short-term Implementation Plan detailing the particular transport improvements supports the strategy.
- 3.2 The Portsmouth Transport Strategy 2021 - 2038 was adopted in October 2021 and includes the following vision:

¹ [Portsmouth Transport Strategy 2021-2038](#)

"Our vision for Portsmouth: By 2038 Portsmouth will have a people-centred, connected, travel network that prioritises walking, cycling and public transport to help deliver a safer, healthier and more prosperous city."

- 3.3 Our Strategic Objectives: Four objectives have been developed which outline the areas we will focus on:
- **Deliver cleaner air**
 - **Prioritise walking and cycling**
 - **Transform public transport**
 - **Support business and protect our assets**
- 3.4 Policy B of the Portsmouth Transport Strategy also outlines to "support infrastructure for alternative fuelled vehicles". Following this, as daughter documents to LTP4, both a Parking and Electric Vehicle Strategy are being developed.
- 3.5 The Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy is being developed for Portsmouth to deliver reliable and accessible EV charging infrastructure, enabling our residents in switching to EV, promoting decarbonised travel and clean air initiatives as well as supporting economic development.
- 3.6 Over recent years there has been rise in the number of electric vehicles in Portsmouth and with governments ambition the rate of increase is expected to grow. The data from 2022 showed that Portsmouth had 11,543 registered plug-in vehicles:
- 6,485 battery electric
 - 5,058 plug-in hybrid electric
- 3.7 To meet and facilitate the expected growth of plug-in vehicles in Portsmouth further charging infrastructure is required and developing an Electric Vehicle Strategy will enable us to move strategically in building on the successful Phase 1 and 2 of On-Street Residential Charge previously delivered in the city.
- 3.8 The Electric Vehicle Strategy provides rationale and demonstrates the ambition for the duration of the plan. The delivery of the strategy is funded by LEVI capability funding. As set out in the UK governments national EV infrastructure strategy, which outlines that it will support local government to develop chargepoint strategies and scale up the rollout of public chargepoints on local streets. The requirement of the LEVI capability funding is outlined below;
- Increase the capacity and capability of every tier 1 local authority to plan and deliver EV infrastructure.

- enable every tier 1 local authority to have a published EV infrastructure strategy for its area.
- enable every tier 1 local authority to take advantage of the LEVI capital fund.

3.9 National policies will also create policy frameworks within which regional EV Strategies will operate, meaning the Transport for South East (TfSE) EV Strategy (2023)² is particularly significant to Portsmouth City Council as this will inform our own EV Strategy and provision of EVCI. Creation of the strategy will support Portsmouth in securing LEVI capital funding needed to develop Phase 3 of EV charging rollout. Officers will also ensure alignment between the emerging Solent Transport Strategy.

3.10 Consulting on the strategy will ensure the needs and wants of potential and current users are considered by the approach taken and reflected in the objectives and policies included.

3.11 Appendix A is the draft EVI strategy which includes a number of objectives, for the approach to future EV infrastructure roll out for residents, businesses and visitors. It will be supported by a delivery plan.

4. Consultation

4.1 During the development of the draft EV Strategy, close working across PCC directorates, such as public health, planning, culture and leisure, housing, business development and licensing has been fundamental, and a cross-departmental internal officer working group has helped to shape the draft objectives and policies.

4.2 Six workshop sessions were held between July 11th and July 19th 2023, to obtain feedback on the proposed strategy direction. This was undertaken as part of the Parking Strategy development. Three workshop sessions were held with PCC Members and three workshop sessions were held with key external stakeholders from a range of organisations. In total 12 Members took part, including 11 external stakeholders.

4.3 Useful feedback was received during these workshops, and the comments received have been used to help further shape the draft EV Strategy (Appendix A).

4.4 If the recommendations of this report are approved by the Cabinet Member for Transport, a six-week public consultation will be undertaken on a designed version of the draft EV Strategy objectives and policies (Appendix A). This consultation is proposed to be undertaken in September/October 2023.

² [Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy - Transport for the South East](#)



- 4.5 To support this consultation, consideration will be given to the results of other council consultation and engagement work, including City Vision and LTP4 of which, as aforementioned, the Parking and Electric Vehicle Strategy are considered 'daughter documents'.

5 Next Steps

- 5.1 If approved to proceed a 6-week consultation with stakeholders and the wider public is planned to commence in mid-September 2023 and run through to the end of October. This will enable further development of the strategy for implementation.
- 5.2 The results will be analysed, and the strategy updated and brought back for adoption in December 2023.

6 Reasons for recommendations

- 6.1 The EV Strategy is being brought forward to support delivery of the Portsmouth Transport Strategy (LTP4) and has been identified as a key priority.
- 6.2 As part of any policy or strategy development, Portsmouth City Council undertakes a public consultation to obtain the views of residents, visitors and businesses. As outlined in section 5 of this report, the consultation responses will be analysed, and an updated strategy will be presented to a decision meeting.
- 6.3 The Electric Vehicle Strategy and delivery of the planned implementation will support and enhance our bid for LEVI funding; which will enable us to deliver Phase 3 of ORCS.
- 6.4 Consultation will ensure the Electric Vehicle Strategy relates strongly to user priorities in the city, delivering EV charging on and off road that answers the needs of our residents, trade and with consideration given to fleet.

7 Integrated impact assessment

- 7.1 An IIA has been undertaken, and is attached as Appendix B

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 The purpose of the Portsmouth Electric Vehicle Strategy is to deliver reliable and accessible EV charging infrastructure, enabling our residents in switching to EV, promoting decarbonised travel and clean air initiatives as well as supporting economic development.

- 8.2 The Council under Section 108 of the Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008) as the local transport authority for the City of Portsmouth must:

develop policies for the promotion and encouragement of safe, integrated, efficient and economic transport to, from and within its area, and carry out its functions so as to implement those policies.
- 8.3 The Council, in complying with the duty under Section 108(1)(b), must have regard to the proposals contained in the LTP.
- 8.4 It is therefore understood that the purpose of the Portsmouth Electric Vehicle Strategy and the corresponding consultation is not to amend the LTP currently in place, but rather to implement a policy which further implements and supplements the LTP. In the circumstances, there is no express statutory duty on the Council (as the Local Transport Authority) to undertake a consultation.
- 8.5 If the Council decides to consult, then the consultation must be adequate and fair but otherwise the Council has a broad discretion as to how a consultation exercise should be carried out.

9 Director of Finance's comments

- 9.1 The development and delivery of the Electric Vehicle strategy is funded by the LEVI capability grant from the DfT. £458,000 has been made available to Portsmouth City Council over three years.
- 9.2 The grant has been provided to support capacity and capability in local authorities to create local EV infrastructure strategies and for the planning and delivery of local EV infrastructure.

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Signed by:

Appendices:

Appendix A: Draft EV Strategy Objectives and Policies for Consultation

Appendix B: IIA

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location
Portsmouth Transport Strategy 2021 - 2038	https://travel.portsmouth.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Local-Transport-Plan-2021.pdf
HM Government - Taking charge: the electric vehicle infrastructure strategy	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1065576/taking-charge-the-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-strategy.pdf
TfSE Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy	https://transportforthesoutheast.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/05/FINAL-TfSE-Electric-Vehicle-Charging-Infrastructure-Strategy-and-Action-Plan-1.pdf

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: