

Key Decision Required:	NO	In the Forward Plan:	NO
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JANUARY2019

REPORT OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDERS FOR CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT & FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCE

A.3 RAPID ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINT HARWICH QUAY

(Report prepared by Ian Taylor)

PART 1 – KEY INFORMATION

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To seek approval for the acquisition of a rapid electric vehicle charging point and to locate it on Harwich Quay and necessary amendments to relevant the Off-Street Parking Places Order.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- As part of a project sponsored by Highways England, Tendring District Council has been offered the opportunity to acquire a rapid electric vehicle charging point to be installed at the Quay, Harwich. The location is highlighted in Appendix A to this report.
- The value of the rapid charger and associated accessories to be transferred to Tendring District Council on completion is approximately £30,000.
- The necessary street works, installation and all costs associated with the project have been paid for by grant from Highway England.
- The bid, subsequent procurement process and management of the project up to the point of completion are undertaken on behalf of a number of local authorities by the lead authority for this project – Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council.
- The equipment has been assessed by Tendring District Council's planning development management team and is regarded as permitted development.
- There is an agreement to pay each authority a small cash grant for officer time of £1,000 for stage one (site investigation) and £1,500 for stage two (installation).

Initially the charging point had been agreed for the parking area along the Quay,

Harwich on land under the management and operation of the Highway Authority, Essex County Council and their agents the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).

However, concerns by Highway England about the transfer of ownership and future maintenance of the charging point led to a last minute request for the charging point to be located on the Tendring District Council owned parking area in the same location further along the Quay.

This report is seeking approval to

- Acquire the charging point at no cost to the authority.
- Install it at the proposed location
- Incorporate the operation, management and future maintenance of the charging point into the Council's parking service operation; and
- Make the required amendments to the Off Street Parking Places Order at the appropriate time.

RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Corporate Resource and the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Enforcement agree to:

- a) Acquire the electric vehicle charging point at no cost to the authority;**
- b) That subject to a) above, install the charging point at the proposed location, The Quay, Harwich as highlighted in Appendix A to this report;**
- c) Incorporate the operation, management and future maintenance of the charging point into the Council's parking service;**
- d) That subject to b) and c) above delegation be given to the Corporate Director (Operational Services) to consult on amendments to the Off-Street Parking Places Order or equivalent to facilitate the enforcement of use of the parking place for electric vehicles; and**
- e) The Corporate Director (Operational Services) make the necessary arrangements for the connection and use of electricity for the vehicle charging point and all service arrangements with the aim of ensuring a cost neutral operation.**

PART 2 – IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECISION

DELIVERING PRIORITIES

The recommendations if approved will contribute to the following corporate priorities:

Our Council / Our Community

- Deliver High Quality Affordable Services
- Make the most of our Assets
- Transform the way we work

Our Opportunities

Supports

- Vision for economic growth and prosperity
- Our Coast
- Tourism

Our Challenges

- Improving poor infrastructure
- Reducing budgets while delivering key services

Our Values

- Innovative, flexible professional staff committed to delivering excellence

FINANCE, OTHER RESOURCES AND RISK

The acquisition of the charging point along with the cost of installation is free of charge.

Future maintenance of the vehicle charging point is likely to be cost neutral. The Council will be able to charge for both a connection to the service and for electricity used above the cost of supply. This will cover some additional costs relating to servicing after three years

In addition, the proposal to utilise one of the two existing disabled only bays on the Quay, Harwich to locate the charging bay will generate additional income to the parking area by creating a new charging bay into the parking area where previously it was available free of charge for up to three hours.

The local authority to charge up to 110% of the average supplier within a 20 mile radius and most suppliers charge sufficient to cover all operating costs.

There is a risk to the equipment as it will be in a public location. However the location selected is adjacent to and opposite twenty four hour businesses and is in a lit area.

Usual Council insurance arrangements will apply which may result in the charging point not being subject to repair and replace insurance. However, the equipment is provided free and the Council is not obligated to continue with the service should it prove to not be cost effective.

The equipment is provided with a three year warranty and full electrical safety certificates.

The Council owns and operates equipment of value in external locations under the same insurance arrangements such as play equipment, pay and display equipment.

The equipment is robust and not easily damaged.

LEGAL

In coming to decisions in relation to management of assets, the Council must act in accordance with its statutory duties and responsibilities. Under case law following Section 120 of Local Government Act 1972, the Council is obliged to ensure that the management of its assets are for the benefit of the district

The procurement process has been undertaken fully by the lead authority and there is an opportunity to use the Framework Agreement procured for the future purchase of rapid electric vehicle points elsewhere within the District if desired.

The ability to designate a parking place for the sole use of electric vehicles and associated charges will need to be reflected within the Off-Street Parking Places Order to allow enforcement. The statutory process will need to be followed to ensure the proposed amendment is consulted upon prior to adoption.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Consideration has been given to the implications of the recommendations proposed and any significant issues are set out below.

The proposals, if agreed, will support the Council's vision to make the most of our assets and to support its vision for economic growth and prosperity by supporting new means for connecting visitors with our district and to accommodate the needs of local residents with electric vehicles.

Consultation/Public Engagement – The proposal if agreed will support aims within the Council's parking strategy and will support wider Council policies in respect of the environment, health and well-being, tourism and regeneration strategies. Statutory consultation is required to amend the Off-Street Parking Places Order as and when the Council wishes to be able to enforce parking within the electric vehicle charging bay.

Crime and Disorder – Improving assets is part of a wider strategy to combat anti-social behaviour by improving the appearance of public realm, generating increased pride, awareness and responsibility for our District.

Equality and Diversity / Health Inequalities – The proposal if agreed will support existing Council policies and will support issues around the health and well-being of our community by sponsoring cleaner air and long term strategies for the environment.

Whilst one disabled parking space is being removed to accommodate the electric vehicle charging bay, the electric vehicle bay will accommodate disabled drivers. In addition there will remain a further disabled only parking bay. The overall provision for disabled drivers in this location exceeds standard requirements for such spaces.

Area or Ward affected – Harwich East Ward

PART 3 – SUPPORTING INFORMATION

BACKGROUND

As part of a project sponsored by Highways England, Tendring District Council was offered the opportunity to be part of a project to install for a rapid electric vehicle charging points across the region.

The proposal was for a lead authority to apply for grant funding from Highways England for the installation of rapid electric vehicle charging points.

The project group consisted of:

- St Edmundsbury Borough Council/Forest Heath District Council
- Great Yarmouth Borough Council
- Norwich City Council
- Breckland District Council
- Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Ipswich Borough Council
- Tendring District Council
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk DC - the lead authority / project managers.

Initially the charging point had been proposed and agreed for the parking area along the Quay, Harwich under the management and operation of the Highway Authority, Essex County Council and their agents the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP).

CURRENT POSITION

Concerns by Highway England about the transfer of ownership and future maintenance of the charging point led to a last minute request for the charging point to be located on the Tendring District Council owned parking area in the same location further along the Quay.

This has afforded Tendring District Council less time to consult locally and to seek the necessary approvals within the Council for the acquisition, location and future maintenance of the electric vehicle charging point.

No planning permission is required. The structure is considered to be permitted development.

To designate a parking place for the use of electric vehicles will require an amendment to the Off-Street Parking Places Order to allow for enforcement.

It is proposed to undertake this when the parking service next undertakes an off-street parking place consolidation order.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND PROPOSAL

Various alternative options for the location of the charging point have been considered in the time allowed.

However, Highways England have a requirement to service the strategic road network every 20 miles and the A120 at the Quay, Harwich had already been considered to be the only location within Tendring that met the associated requirements for a natural and safe stopping place and nearby facilities such as toilets, cafes, etc.

Due to the last minute request for TDC to take over the electric vehicle charging point it is not possible for an alternative location to be considered at this stage.

The only viable alternative to the proposed location is on popular car parks owned by the Council in Clacton-on-Sea. However, the Council already owns and operates an electric vehicle charging point on the High Street car park, Clacton.

To install a second electric vehicle charging point in Harwich would support the aim of servicing the highway network within Tendring to best effect.

The proposal is for the Council to agree to acquire the rapid electric vehicle charging point and to install it in the Council owned parking area of the Quay, Harwich as highlighted in appendix A to this report and for the Council to manage and operate the charging point in future.

CONCLUSION AND WAY AHEAD

The last minute offer for Tendring District Council to acquire a rapid electric vehicle charging point has provided an opportunity for the Council to provide a valuable and sought after additional service to residents and visitors to the District at no cost to the Council.

This has afforded less time for wider consideration and discussion of the merits of acquisition, future operation and location.

However, the offer is for the charging point to be provided and installed at no cost to the Council along with a three year warranty, full electrical certification and supporting grants of £2,500 for officer time.

Whilst some additional financial risks and responsibilities are similarly transferred to the Council, provision of this service with appropriate fees charged and the bringing into operation of an additional charging parking bay on the Quay will ensure the future operation is cost neutral to the Council.

The proposed location serves Tendring District well in so far as the District Council already has one electric vehicle charging point located in the High Street Clacton-on-Sea. A location in Harwich would therefore provide electric vehicle charging opportunities at each end of the District at distances sufficiently far apart to provide assurance for and to encourage electric vehicle drivers to travel within the Tendring

District, supporting a key aim of the Council's parking strategy.

The framework agreement procured for the provision of this electric vehicle charging point and others across the region will enable the Council to use this framework for the provision of additional charging points elsewhere in the District in future should they be considered cost effective and worthwhile.

APPENDICES

Appendix A – proposed site location

BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR THE DECISION

None