

Appendix 3b

Consultation Summary

Local Councils

District, borough, town and parish councils were approached, not only for their views and comments on the strategy, but also to ask if they would like to be more directly involved in the delivery of a public land solution.

Comments have been received from

- Adur and Worthing Councils
- Chichester District Council
- Horsham District Council
- Cowfold Parish Council
- Felpham Parish Council
- Ferring Parish Council
- Horsham Denne Neighbourhood Council
- Littlehampton Town Council
- Petworth Parish Council
- Rusper Parish Council
- Yapton Parish Council

On the whole the responses from local councils were broadly supportive of the strategy, its aims, objectives and delivery plans.

Many of the council responses included suggestions for additional clarity or amendments to the strategy. Common highlights were:

- The desire for the County Council to see this EV Strategy as an element in a wider strategy, and to develop a holistic, ambitious, robust, sustainable transport strategy for the county which includes provision of buses, car clubs, bicycles
- The desire for the County Council to work with private businesses to encourage them to install chargers on their own land.
- The need for appropriate solutions for rural areas
- The need for contactless payment for chargers
- The need for collaborative working to identify potential sites for charger locations.

One council asked for further consideration to be given to the longer term implications of the technology.

In regard to more involvement with delivery of a public land solution positive responses have been received from:

- Adur and Worthing Councils
- Crawley Borough Council
- Horsham District Council
- Billingshurst Town Council

The County Council is working with their representatives to shape the procurement to meet their and our requirements, and to develop a long list of

potential sites where, subject to feasibility, they would be happy to see chargers installed.

The following councils remain interested, and have asked to be kept up to date with progress, and the outcome of the procurement:

- Arun District Council
 - Cowfold Parish Council
 - Ferring Parish Council
 - Lancing Parish Council
 - Mid Sussex District Council
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- Chichester District Council – although they do not at this stage envisage adding land to the solution.

Targeted Interest Groups

The Equalities Impact Report identified the potential negative consequences of cables crossing footways for users of pavements. To ensure that groups who might be particularly negatively affected were given the opportunity to comment, targeted communications were sent to Associations for the Blind, Elderly and Access Forums.

One response was received from Crawley Town Access Group. They limited their response to the issue of cables crossing footways, and although welcoming the development of electric vehicles and wanting support efforts towards future planning of charging infrastructure, were strongly opposed to the proposal for cables.

Suppliers

We have conducted a soft market test to engage possible suppliers for their views on elements of our strategy. We received 12 responses.

There were no elements of the strategy that would prevent suppliers bidding to deliver a public land electric vehicle charger solution across West Sussex.

Public

Online Survey

A consultation took place from 27 August to 2 October 2019 and primarily consisted of an online questionnaire 694 responses were submitted.

The full consultation response report is attached but the highlights are:

- 72% of respondents agree, or strongly agree with the general aims proposed in the strategy
- 62% agree that the strategy should focus on people who will be reliant on public infrastructure
- 61% think should be using renewable energy to power the chargers, but 33% think should only use renewable energy if it was not more expensive to users
- 55% think they would be fairly or very likely to use chargers installed.

- 39% think the aims were just right; 37% think the aims are not ambitious enough; 23% think the aims are too ambitious
- 40% think that the County Council should allow cables in cable protectors, to run across pavements for charging electric vehicles; 51% think this should not be allowed; 8% didn't know.

Additional points that arose through the comments section included:

- Alternative sustainable transport, including active transport such as cycling and walk should be considered over EV charging (5.91% of all responses)
- The importance of enforcement to ensure charging bays are being used by charging cars (3.6% of all responses)
- Concerns about cables (3.6% of all responses)
- Broadening of the public land solution to a community land solution that encompassed village halls and community centres.

The full report of the findings is available on request and will also be published on the County Council Have Your say website.

Focus Groups

Two focus groups also took place for current EV users to express their views
The highlights were:

- Contactless payment is very important / essential, but membership schemes, where individuals register with a provider, and are issued with a payment card, are also useful and have a role to play.
- EV drivers need clarity and transparency about the charging costs
- 24 hour, 7 day a week troubleshooting support essential
- The importance of enforcement to ensure charging bays are being used by charging cars.
- Chargers have a role in helping making it attractive for visitors
- Views on cables across pavements were generally negative, although they recognised that it would give people an option for charging when they currently can't they thought it would create issues both for pedestrians and people charging. It was suggested that in certain quiet areas it would be acceptable.