

EXECUTIVE DECISION RECORD SHEET

Name of decision maker: Cllr Robin Bromham

Portfolio: Neighbourhood Operations

Date of Portfolio Holder Decision: 18/04/2024

Title of Decision: To undertake a statutory consultation on the enforcement of Electric Vehicle Charge Point (EVCP) bays in neighbourhood shopping centre locations

Part II: N/A

Decision made and reasons:

Decision:

1. To undertake a statutory consultation to enforce EVCP bays in neighbourhood shopping centre locations.
 - The statutory consultation will be drafted by the Council's parking consultants ADL Traffic & Highways
 - The statutory consultation will be undertaken on the Council's corporate consultation platform.

Reason:

The Council have commenced with the installation of EVCPs in the Council's car parks, the enforcement of the EVCP bays in off-street car parks is already covered by the existing off-street Traffic Regulation Order (TRO), and however, there is a need to install new information boards in the car parks that have not previously had EVCPs installed in them.

It has also been identified that the parking areas in neighbourhood shopping centres are not covered by the off-street TRO, so enforcement of these spaces is not permitted. Enforcement will only be applicable to vehicles that are not electric that are parked in the EVCP bays, or for electric vehicles that park in the EVCP bays but are not connected up to the charger.

There is a need to undertake a statutory consultation to introduce a TRO in these parking areas to enable enforcement of the EV only bays to be legally conducted.

The neighbourhood shopping areas that will be covered by the TRO is as follows:

- Leverstock Green – (off-street)
- Bennetts End – (off-street)
- Queens Square – (off-street)
- Bellgate – (off-street)
- Henry Wells Square – (on-street)

It is proposed to undertake a statutory consultation to introduce one on-street TRO to cover the 5 locations

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Reports considered:

Not Applicable

Officers/Councillors/Ward Councillors/Stakeholders Consulted:

Leader of the Council
Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Deputy Leader
Strategic Director (People & Transformation)
Head of Commercial Services
Parking Manager

The following stakeholders will be consulted:

Hertfordshire Constabulary Road Policing Strategy Unit
Hertfordshire County Council Traffic Order Manager
Hertfordshire County Council Highways Locality Officer
Hertfordshire County Council Highways Strategy Manager (Dacorum)
Hertfordshire County Council Passenger Transport Unit
Hertfordshire Fire & Rescue Service
East of England Ambulance Service
Hertfordshire County Council land charges
Affected ward councillors
Freight Transport Association (FTA)
Road Haulage Association (RHA)

Site notices and will be erected in the affected area, an advertisement will be placed in the local newspaper

Deputy Monitoring Officer Comments:

The procedure for making and varying Traffic Regulation Orders is set out at Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984. This includes an obligation to consult with the chief officer of police for the area and a number of other specified organisations and bodies. This Portfolio Holder decision complies with the relevant statutory requirements on consultation.

Chief Financial Officers Comments:

No further comments to add to the report.

Implications:

Value for Money:

The Council are unable to enforce vehicles that are not electric from parking in these bays, or for electric vehicles from parking in these bays but not connecting up to the charger. By not enforcing the EVCP bays, it is likely that this will see these bays not being used for their intended purpose which will not provide value for money.

Financial:

Although the investment for the EVCPs will be provided through a mixture of grant funding and private sector investment, the Council will benefit from a share of operating profit from the EVCPs. Therefore, it is essential that the EVCP bays are enforced to ensure maximum availability for their use.

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Based on previous projects, the costs to introduce the TRO is estimated to be approximately £9,000 consisting of advertising and consultancy fees (including consultation, reports and Traffic Regulation Order). The consultancy selected for this function have previously conducted consultations and design works for DBC and are familiar with the area. They are also the named contractors in the framework agreement for the provision of consultancy for traffic related operations and parking.

The cost will be taken from the Parking Services 'On-street consultancy budget' - MB200 3950.

There will be on-going revenue costs for line and signs and enforcement.

Risk:


Not enforcing the EVCP bays will lead to complaints from electric vehicle owners that the Council have allowed an EVCP infrastructure to be implemented but are not enabling it to be delivered.

Options Considered and Reasons for Rejection:

The Council could decide not to enforce the EVCP bays, but this is highly likely to impact on the usage and the projected income. The Service providers that have invested in the EVCP infrastructure are expecting a return on their investment.

The installation of the EVCP infrastructure is also designed to support non-electric vehicle users to change to electric vehicles, the non-enforcement of these bays will not support this objective.

Portfolio Holders' Signature:



Date: 17 April 2024

Details of any interest declared and any dispensation given by the Standards Committee:

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Date Decision Record Sheet received from portfolio holder: 17/04/2024

Date Decision Published: 18/04/2024

Decision No: PH-012-2024

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: 25/04/2024

Date any Call-In received or decision implemented: