

Record of Decision taken by Executive Councillor

Decision title: Phase One, SWT Car Park EV charge point contract

Executive Councillor making the decision: Cllr Pilkington

Author Contact Details: Chris Hall

Date of Decision: 19th April 2021

Details of decision: It has been decided to award the contract for EV charge points to SWARCO at a cost of £155,000 (before Office of Zero Emission Vehicles funding) through the use of a public sector framework.

The use of the Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation framework allows the council to take advantage of the procurement exercise already run by others and allows for a greater economy of scale. It also means that as the exercise has already been undertaken the council can make a direct award through this process speeding up the otherwise lengthy contracting process.

The largest part of the cost is made up of the new connections needed to near by substations with this money being paid via SWARCO to the network operator Western Power Distribution.

The award to SWARCO is for two x 22KW charger within the phase one car parks as follows:

Wood Street, Taunton
Enfield, Taunton
The Crescent, Taunton
North Street, Wellington
North Road, Minehead
North Street, Wiveliscombe
Porlock Central
Williton Central
Market Street, Watchet
Deane House, Taunton

SWT have opted for 22KW chargers rather than the slower 7KW chargers often associated with the free schemes.

SWARCO are one of a number of operators on the Framework list, they have been selected as they equipment is Open Charge Point Protocol compliant where others were not. They are also the operator chosen by Western Power Distribution for the DC Share Scheme and collaboration on this project makes implementation smoother and provides a simpler charging process for members of the public with fewer operators and therefore let confusion for customers.

Reasons for proposed decision: SWT made a commitment to the installation of EV charge points across the district in its CNCR plan.

The phase one list covers a number of locations to give an initial network across the district area, further phases are also being planned. These locations have been selected as they meet with the Somerset EV charging strategy that was adopted by SWT on 15th December 2020.

Alternative funding options sourced:

There are currently 4 EV charge schemes underway in with SWT:

- 1- DC Share, a 100KW multi million pound world first project with Western Power
- 2 – Instavolt, a 50KW parking space lease scheme delivered at no cost to the council
- 3 – EV charge grant, an opportunity for town and parish council's to seek support funding from SWT for the delivery of charge points within their community
- 4 – SWT Car Park, a phase roll out of charge points that don't fit the other criteria

There are alternative methods of implementing charge points that include:

Concession – These are provided at no or low cost but are slow and arguably outdated technology. They often come with exclusion zones so the operator can protect their income from being diluted. This would stifle the aims of SWT to build and grow a network of charge points.

Lease – These chargers are leased at a cost to the council usual with some form or income share with the operators, they require specific commitments from the land owner (SWT) that may prejudice the use of our car parks in the future.

Owned – As selected through this process the council owns the equipment and all of the income, it allows us complete control over the future use and layout of the car parks and there are no restrictions on exclusion zones. The method also gives the council access to the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles funding which is estimated to refund c£72,000 of our costs.

The below has been completed:	Name(s)	Date
Relevant ward councillor(s) consulted	A coms plan will be developed to cover the numerous	April 2021
The following are if appropriate / applicable: Yes/No. If yes the implications should be attached to this decision notice.		
Finance implications	Within budget and delegated approval process of the CNCR allocation.	
Legal implications	Yes – lease to be created by the Asset team with the appropriate legal input	
Links to corporate aims	Yes – Climate Change being the number one priority of the council	
Climate and Sustainability implications	Yes – beneficial action that supports our delivery of the CNCR plan.	

Community Safety Implications	No	
Equalities Impact	No	
Safeguarding Implications		
Risk management	No	
Partnership implications	No	

Any conflicts of interest declared by Leader or Executive Members consulted on the proposed decision. If Yes provide confirmation from Chief Executive to grant dispensation for the Leader's / Executive Member's views to be considered.

NO

Decision Maker

I am aware of the details of this decision(s), considered the reasons, options, representations and consultation responses and give my approval / agreement to its implementation.

Signed:



Name: Cllr Peter Pilkington

Date: 19th April 2021

Note – This decision record is for decisions taken by Executive Councillors. The decision(s) can be implemented following publication and the period for any call-in has expired.

Note: A copy should also be sent to the Governance Team – governance@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk