

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Full Council – 29 March 2022

Budget Approval – Electric Vehicle Charging Points

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Dixie Darch

Report Author: Sue Tomlinson, Programme Manager for Climate Change

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 In line with the Council's financial regulations, this report seeks to confirm and regularise the capital budget required for the rollout of the Electric Vehicle Charging Points. This project does not require any new funding or borrowing.
- 1.2 As part of 2021/22 budget monitoring, £150k supplementary capital budget was identified and approved for this project. At the time, the full cost and financing of this project were still being realised.
- 1.3 The capital costs for the project are now forecast to be £270k, £134k is funded from the CNCR budget and the remainder £136k is secured funding from a successful grant bid with OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles).
- 1.4 Full Council approval is required as this now represents two supplementary budget allocations which total more than £250k.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Full Council support the supplementary capital budget allocation of £120k, making a total of £270k of which £136k is secured funding from OZEV.

3 Background and Full details of the Report

- 3.1 Somerset West and Taunton Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and adopted the Countywide Emergency Strategy in October 2020.
- 3.2 Electric vehicle charging points were identified as a priority area within the strategy and external consultants WSP were commissioned on behalf of Somerset County Council and the 4 District Councils to produce a Countywide Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, to help deliver an effective electric vehicle charging network for Somerset.
- 3.3 The strategy identifies numerous car parks where it recommends the installation of electric vehicle charging points within Somerset West and Taunton and it was adopted in December 2020.
- 3.4 A project manager within the climate change programme was allocated the project to

progress the feasibility of implementing electric vehicle charging points.

- 3.5 Using the Countywide Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy as a baseline, 9 car parks were identified to be included in the phase one project, these were Belvedere Road, Wood Street and Castle Street in Taunton, North Street in Wellington, North Street in Wiveliscombe, Williton Central, Porlock Central, North Street in Minehead and Swain Street in Watchet.
- 3.6 Installing charge points in these locations will provide wider access to charging infrastructure across the district.
- 3.7 Following a period of exploring the market and obtaining budget estimates it was decided to procure the electric vehicle charging points via the ESPO (363) Framework, by direct award contract to SWARCO.
- 3.8 There were several reasons why the purchase option was chosen, they were Somerset West and Taunton retain control, future expansion would not be limited by exclusion zones, the council would not be tied into long term agreements, planning permission was not required under permitted development rights, integration after unitary would be easier by selecting OCPP (open charge point protocol) compliant products and there was the potential for OZEV funding for 75% of the capital costs for on-street public charge points.
- 3.9 Officers applied for and were successful in securing OZEV funding to the value of £136k for the on-street public charge point element of the project.
- 3.10 Installation works started in November 2020 and will be complete during Q1 2022/23, most locations are receiving 2 x 22kw (fast) double headed charge points apart from North Street in Wiveliscombe and Swain Street in Watchet where there will be one.

4 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 4.1 The electric vehicle charging point project links directly to a number of corporate strategies and priorities.
- 4.2 Corporate priority 'Our Environment and Economy' - work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal.
- 4.3 The Countywide Emergency Strategy, the Countywide Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy, and our own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience action plan.

5 Finance / Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications, other than achieving compliance with the Council's financial regulations. There is no new funding or borrowing required.

Democratic Path:

- **Executive – Yes (16 March 2022)**
- **Full Council – Yes (29 March 2022)**

Reporting Frequency: Once only

Contact Officers

Name	Sue Tomlinson
Direct Dial	07767 886924
Email	s.tomlinson@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk
Name	Chris Beswick
Direct Dial	07585 795567
Email	c.beswick@somersetwestandtaunton.gov.uk