

Full Council Meeting – 27 July 2021

Report of Councillor Dixie Darch – Climate Change

It has been an exciting time to take on the Climate Change Portfolio as a number of actions within the CNCR are now at the implementation stage following a period of careful planning and preparation.

EV charging points

A number of different projects are underway.

1. Instavolt

The EV charging provider, Instavolt, is leasing spaces from SW&T in the following council owned car parks:

- Blackbrook (already live)
- Deane House (will go live later this summer)
- Exmoor House, Dulverton (installation complete and go live planned for 23rd July)
- Alexandra Road, Minehead (installation complete and go live planned for 22nd July)

These will be 50 kw DC rapid charge. 0.40p per kw hour

2. SWARCO

SW&T is in contract with SWARCO to purchase EV charging points for our car parks across the district. This gives us long term flexibility and greater agency. There will be 2 X 22kw SWARCO charge points in each location. We will be applying for OZEV (Office for Zero Emission Vehicles) funding for those locations that are suitable. The roll out will be phased.

Phase One car parks have been agreed and installations will start as soon as locations within each car park have been approved. Sites are as follows:

- North St, Wellington
- North Rd, Minehead
- North St, Wiveliscombe
- Porlock Central
- Williton Central
- Market Street, Watchet
- Castle Street, Taunton
- Enfield Car Park, Taunton
- Beveldere Rd, Taunton (this is in addition to the Instavolt installation)
- The Crescent, Taunton

Phase Two car parks are currently being reviewed.

3. Workplace Charging Scheme and Electric Pool Cars

Our application for funding for two workplace charging points has been successful and we have been awarded £700 to help install EV Charge points at Deane House for this purpose.

We have ordered two new electric pool cars, the delivery of which is scheduled for the 19 July.

Climate Change Training

Training on climate change was delivered by a specialist training company to over 600 council employees and the majority of councillors in April, meeting a number of action points on the CNCR Plan. Feedback from staff and members was positive and the initiative was picked up by the national press, as we are one of few councils to have provided this.

- Somerset council teaches every staff member about climate change | Public Sector Executive
- Getting beyond the climate wishlists: the struggle to turn carbon pledges into action | Local Government Chronicle (LGC) (lgcplus.com)

E-Scooters

The E-Scooter trial in Taunton continues to be successful with a cumulative total of 94,104 miles travelled thus far. Using estimates based on historical data indicating that 34% of e- scooter rides replace car travel, this mileage is equivalent to a reduction of 12.9 tonnes of carbon. Our data on usage also reveals that scooters are used for repeated regular journeys.

The Minehead trial was launched on 5 June, following stakeholder engagement with local Town councillors, Minehead Business Improvement District, Avon and Somerset Police, managers from Butlins and Disability groups. Representatives from many of these groups attended the launch. Take up in Minehead has exceeded all expectations with 7,994 miles covered in the first 5 weeks.

SWT: Recycling on the Go

SW&T are leading this trial on behalf of the county. *Recycling on the Go*, as the name suggests, involves recycling bins for specific waste materials in public areas, in order to encourage sorting of recycling materials at the point of disposal. Three locations were selected for a base line audit of the different categories of waste in public bins which was carried out during the first week in July. These are Taunton (urban), Dulverton (rural) and Minehead (Tourist destination). Analysis of bin waste will help to inform the trial.

Whole Building Decarbonisation Strategy

Hydrock have been appointed to provide a decarbonisation strategy for three key council owned buildings: Deane House, the Wellington Depot and Taunton Crematorium. Hydrock have carried out site surveys and data gathering and will be producing their report within the next month.

Waterless Urinals

We have approval to proceed in 8 locations across the district with 18 conversions to waterless urinals.

Water Refill Stations

Agreements are now in place with Wessex Water and water refill stations in Taunton, Minehead and Wellington will be installed ready for the summer season with the aim of reducing single use plastic.

Climate Change Delivery Partnership

This collaborative partnership has now been approved by both SW&T and Sedgemoor District Council. SDC will fund two Project Managers who will join our team, and part-fund (50%) a new Ecologist post. Within this team SW&T will also be funding a Funding Bid Writer for 12 months, after which it is hoped the role will become self-financing. Recruitment is under way for these roles.

Recognition of achievements

We have submitted a bid for the **Local Government Association awards** under the category 'Climate Response'.