

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	16 July 2019
Title:	Guidance for Residents for On-Street Electric Vehicle Charging in Hampshire
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Adrian Gray

Tel: 01962 846892

Email: adrian.gray@hants.gov.uk

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approve the proposed approach to supporting on-street electric vehicle charging in Hampshire, as set out in the report and the attached guidance.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment authorises the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment to make appropriate minor amendments to the guidance as may be required from time to time.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. The County Council has received requests from residents without off-street parking to run an electric cable from their properties across a public footway to charge their vehicles. Running a cable from a property provides the most convenient charging solution and allows residents to benefit from the lowest electricity tariff available to them in the same way as residents with off-street parking. Facilitating convenient and low cost charging is likely to make purchasing electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles more attractive and help encourage their early adoption, helping reduce the public health consequences of vehicle pollutants. It is also likely to respond to increasing public demand as owning electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles becomes cheaper than petrol and diesel vehicles over time. Further, guidance for cables across a footway has been provided by other local authorities and it is appropriate that the County Council considers making similar provision for Hampshire residents.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. It would be possible to make a policy decision to prevent residents from running an electric cable from their property across a public footway on the basis that any cable could be an obstruction and present a hazard. This is rejected as such a blanket policy would not reflect readily available means to mitigate the hazard and residents' preference for charging vehicles at home.

Such a blanket policy would discourage members of the public from purchasing electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles because of the inconvenience and additional cost of remote charging and would be contrary to the County Council's desire to support the switch to ultra-low emission vehicles to tackle poor air quality.

- 3.2. It would be possible to make a policy decision to license residents running an electric cable from their property across a public footway, requiring residents to comply with a number of standard provisions to safeguard the public from the hazard presented by a cable, and to pay an administration fee to cover the authority's cost in assessing licence applications. This is rejected as meeting standard provisions and the cost of applying for a licence could similarly discourage members of the public from purchasing electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Appropriate guidance in lieu of standard licence provisions would provide safeguards at a lower cost to residents.
- 3.3. It would be possible to offer residents applying to run an electric cable across a public footway an on-street electric vehicle charge point instead. This is rejected as it would be cost prohibitive for residents if offered on a full cost recovery basis. Restrictions on government grant funding currently available to local authorities to support installing on-street charge points means costs would not necessarily be met and is in any event limited. Such a programme would over time also add a significant asset management burden to an already severely limited highways maintenance budget. Further, there may be technical electricity supply limitations on providing multiple on-street charge points that mean requests could not be met, in which case the public would again be discouraged from purchasing electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

16 July 2019

**Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Councillor Rob Humby**