

**Draft Hampshire County Council Position Statement on OZEV Consultation:
*Future of Transport Regulatory Review – Zero Emission Vehicles***

Hampshire County Council welcomes the review and the government's commitment to phase out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans on the way to zero emission vehicles. The County Council declared a climate emergency in June 2019, and we have set out a pathway to be carbon neutral by 2050. Transitioning to electric vehicles (EV) forms part of our strategy, and we are therefore keen to ensure there is sufficient charging infrastructure and consumer protections in place to make this happen in a fair, efficient and equitable way. We look forward to the publication of a national charge point strategy in due course.

Trends in electric vehicle range, battery capacity, and charging infrastructure will continue to evolve. This makes it difficult to forecast future requirements for electric vehicle charging, but clearly there are insufficient places to charge to keep pace with predicted demand currently, and this is likely to be a factor in decisions people are making now about purchasing an electric vehicle.

It is anticipated that away from private driveways, private sector charge point operators (CPOs) will provide much of the charging infrastructure needed, where commercially viable, and where there is demand. It is therefore probably not appropriate for local authorities to intervene in this area, but instead to focus efforts and resources as necessary to support residents where the market fails to deliver.

The duty to plan EV charge points will enable a coordinated approach with local authorities, CPOs, and the energy supply sector working together to identify the best locations while allowing integration with the County Council's increasing emphasis on strategies to tackle climate change and promote reductions in carbon emissions in Hampshire. This 'new burden' will require additional financial support from Government, and co-operation from the electricity supply industry. A duty to deliver charging infrastructure involving local authorities will need to be accompanied with sufficient additional funding to implement the planned rollout in less commercially attractive areas such as urban on-street and in some rural areas. Additional revenue support would also be required if charge points are to be operated and maintained by the public sector.

Providing sufficient charging infrastructure in non-residential car parks is an essential part of the charging mix that will allow those without the ability to charge at home a place to recharge their electric vehicle batteries. Workplace and other car park charging capacity will reduce the need to provide more challenging on-street alternatives generally, but on current technological parameters some on street charging is still required in areas such as housing without off road parking. The County Council owns several types of car parks from small offices and depots for its own operational uses, to country parks and large park and ride sites used by the public. As the landowner, a duty to provide EV charge points could prove a significant burden on the authority and therefore achieving a balanced approach will be important. Competition and open access charging, regardless of membership or

vehicle type, should become the standard in motorway and major A road service areas.

Improved customer experience in terms of consumer protections, accessibility, and safety standards for public charge points, are essential for the wider take-up of electric vehicles, as are aspects of inclusive design using standardised plugs and sockets. If additional infrastructure, such as street lighting and weather proofing, were to be mandated, the extra cost of provision and running costs would need to be supported through specific funding in addition to the revenue support required if charge points are to be operated and maintained by the public sector in less commercially attractive areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the initial thinking behind the proposals for expanding EV charging points provision. Hampshire County Council welcomes the initiative, and we remain keen to participate in further work on developing the overall strategy and approach, and in further consultations on this subject. In addition to this letter, the County Council has also submitted comments through the consultation response process on line.