

Councillors' Information Bulletin: 7 April 2025

Title of Update: City EV Infrastructure Plan

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1. What is the update about?

The report is to inform members of the City EV infrastructure Plan commissioned in 2023. The purpose of the study was to determine the requirement for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (EVI) across Exeter, to support city wide aspirations for EV Charging and to secure Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding from government.

2. Background

A key factor in the transition to a zero-carbon future, includes the growth of EVs by ensuring all drivers are confident they can equitably access EV infrastructure. The approach outlined in this report will support the City Council to deliver consistent, accessible, and innovative EV infrastructure in their car parks, while advocating for integrated, comprehensive coverage across the city.

Previously LEVI funding was offered to all authorities to support expansion of EVI, with government grant criteria requiring LA's to provide a EV plan/strategy. However, funding rules changed, and whilst still a government priority, funding is awarded only to Tier One local authorities. Subsequently, Exeter CC together with Devon districts, have formed a collaboration with Devon CC and Torbay, to support the provisions set out in the City EV Infrastructure Plan.

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3. Current position

The City EV Infrastructure Plan's approach allows collaboration for resourcing bids into LEVI funding. To deliver consistent, accessible EV infrastructure in Exeter's car parks, a reliable EV charging service with comprehensive coverage across the city. To deliver on the Council's Corporate Plan, to improve air quality and pollution, and to support residents to take action and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Overall outcomes of the report include to:

- Analyse and summarise the context within which ECC will deliver EVI locally, regionally, and nationally, including funding sources and joint strategies;

- Baseline the current situation regarding road transport, Electric Vehicles (EVs), EV Infrastructure (EVI) and emissions;
- Project the number of EVs and EVI demand in the area;
- Calculate the benefits associated with the EV uptake;
- Analyse all council car parks and estimate the future infrastructure demand at the locations;
- Suggest an approach to EVI provision for residents without off-street parking;
- Analyse and make recommendations of potential commercial arrangements for the installation of EVI;
- Outline an implementation plan to deliver;

4. Future position

The implementation plan is a useful resource and already used to shape the Council's allocation of the joint district and Devon and Torbay LEVI funding bid. The LEVI Partnership project secured LEVI funding to provide fully funded EV Charging facilities and is currently being procured, delivery of which will commence across the city in 2025/26.

5. Are there any other options?

To explore alternative approaches to EVI, based on emerging technologies and trends, including market engagement to assess commercial opportunity if presented.

6. Conclusion

The report is shared and is to be used to advocate comprehensive EVI coverage across the city.

Attached : Exeter City Council EV Implementation Plan Report