



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **MUNICIPAL YEAR 2023-24**

#### **CLIMATE CHANGE, FRONTLINE SERVICES & PROSPERITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**01 FEBRUARY 2024**

### **UPDATE REPORT ON EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE WITHIN COUNCIL ASSETS**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES, IN DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND CORPORATE SERVICES, COUNCILLOR C. LEYSHON**

**Author(s): David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates, and Anthony Roberts, Head of Energy & Carbon Reduction.**

#### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee on progress made in the field of Electric Vehicle Charging, within Council Assets, in working towards to the Council's publicly stated EV charging goals.

#### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the contents of this report, and an accompanying presentation, as part of the ongoing work in response to the Council's EV charging ambitions set by the Climate Change Strategy and the EV Charging Strategy and Implementation Plan.
- 2.2 Receive further report(s) to provide updates on progress as/when deemed appropriate.

#### **3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to assess the Council's progress on the development of EVC infrastructure, within Council Assets, in the context of the wider Council carbon reduction commitments and published ambitions.

- 3.2 To support the implementation and delivery of the Council's Climate Change Strategy and associated EV Charging Strategy and Implementation Plan.

#### **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In late 2021 the work of the Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Sub-Group led to the approval and publication of the Council's 'Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy', which is a fundamental element of the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the County Borough. Similarly in late 2022, the follow up 'Implementation and Action Plan', were also approved and then later published, and it is these documents which form the fundamental element of the development of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the County Borough, along with the Council's 'Climate Change Strategy'.
- 4.2 The expansion of EV charging infrastructure, within Council owned assets across the County Borough, is supported by the Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Sub-Group. This report covers such works in support of the Fleet Transition to electric vehicles (EV), the expansion of EV charging infrastructure to include staff and visitor charging, and the substantial contribution of the Cardiff Capital Region's (CCR) programs.
- 4.3 It should be noted that Transportation and Electric Vehicle Charging Sub-Group has recently been restructured, with the aim of streamlining resources in response to the Group's current programme. The Group now reports on the EV charging Action Plan progress quarterly, to the main Climate Change Working Group.

#### **5.0 PROGRESS UPDATE**

- 5.1 To efficiently handle the influx of EV charging enquiries, a central EV enquiry inbox was established in 2022 and is maintained by the Energy & Carbon Reduction Team. At present all EV charging enquiries are handled through this mailbox, with other service areas encouraged to divert any correspondence they may receive through this central point of reference.
- 5.2 The Council's EV Charging Infrastructure Implementation Plan and Action Plan was published early 2023, with the purpose of providing 'clear guidance and advice on the requirements for the development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, across the County Borough'.
- 5.3 The Council were successful in applying for over £540k of Transport for Wales/Welsh Government ULEV Transformation Fund grant funding for the financial years 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. It is anticipated that Corporate Estates will submit an application for a third year of ULEV TF funding for the FY 24/25 in January 2024, however the details surrounding this are still being considered.
- 5.4 The Council have procured the 'CLENERGY EV' management system which allows complete electronic oversight of all charge point assets that the Council owns and manages. This management system was funded using the ULEV TF FY 22/23 grant funding.

- 5.5 To support the fleet transition to electric vehicles, the Council installed EV charge points at strategic sites across Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council for fleet use. Data concerning this roll out is shown below in Table 1.
- 5.6 ULEV-TFW grant funding for f/yr 22/23, enabled the installation of further EV charge points at sites across the County Borough for public/ visitor charging. Data concerning this roll out is also shown below in Table 1.
- 5.7 Officers in 'Frontline Services', working in partnership with the Cardiff Capital Region Transport Authority (CCRTA), secured funding to install 7kw to 22kw fast charging points, for public use, at car parking sites across Rhondda Cynon Taf as part of the Phase 1 roll-out.
- 5.8 In addition, funding has also been secured from the UK Government, via the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), for EV charging points at further locations – including public car parks, Community Centres and Leisure/Education car parks. This will be complemented by funding from Welsh Government and the 'Cardiff Capital Region' as part of the Phase 2 roll-out. Data concerning both these phases of roll out is shown below in Table 1

<b><i>EV Charging Initiative:</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Sites:</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Chargers:</i></b>	<b><i>Number of Connectors:</i></b>	<b><i>Number now available for use:</i></b>
<b>CCR - EVC Roll Out (Phase 1)</b>	31	43	84	74*
<b>CCR - EVC Roll Out (Phase 2)</b>	26	26	52	42*
<b>RCT Council Fleet Charging</b>	13	14	16	16
<b>WG / ULEV – TF **</b>	9	11	18	1
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>170</b>	<b>121</b>

**Table 1**

**Note:** \* This data is available and updated weekly on the RCT Campaigns webpage (see below)

\*\* Some of the ULEV-TF charge points are already available for use by fleet and will be made available to 'others' for use during January 2024

- 5.9 Members of the public are updated of the installation progress through the public-facing EVCP campaigns [page](#), which is updated by Officers in 'Frontline Services' on a weekly basis.

- 5.10 Also utilizing the ULEV TF FY 23/24 grant funding, Officers in Corporate Estates have commissioned a feasibility study to identify 3 priority short stay sites with the potential to install 55kW DC Rapid EV Charge Points. It is anticipated that the outcomes of this feasibility study will inform RCT's ULEV TF FY 24/25 bid in January 2024 (see 5.3 above).
- 5.11 Officers are working with the GIS team to include a public map of Council/CCR EVC installations on the EV Charging webpage, and the ambition is to have this uploaded to the webpage by end of February 2024.
- 5.12 The presentation that follows this report will attempt to demonstrate and illustrate all the above progress.

## **6.0 WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The 'CLEENERGY EV' management system described above provides chargepoint users with a bilingual service, which includes a Welsh Language Telephone and Email Helpline, thus supporting the use of the Welsh Language.

## **7.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 The rollout of EV Charging infrastructure on Council assets assists the Council in meeting its target of having a publicly accessible charge point within 1 mile of 90% of residential properties. However, it has to be recognized that very few people in RCT can afford an Electric Vehicle, so this expansion of charging infrastructure does not benefit all residents and visitors to the County Borough.

## **8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 As detailed in Section 5 above, the rollout of charging infrastructure has benefited from external grants from various WG/TfW/ UK ULEV funding streams. This has been supplemented by support from existing internal resources.

## **9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications arising from this update report.

## **10.0 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES.**

- 10.1 The Council has committed to becoming a Carbon Neutral organisation by 2030 and to work with residents and businesses to ensure the whole County Borough is Carbon Neutral as close as possible to the 2030 target. This supports the priorities of the Council's Corporate Plan 'Making a Difference' – 2020-24.
- 10.2 The Well-being of Future Generations Act asks public bodies to work better with people, communities and each other to meet the Sustainable Development principle. The Council's approach to the implementation of the Act agreed by Cabinet is to make sure that its requirements are embedded into the everyday business.

- A Healthier Wales – Electric vehicles produce no combustion emissions and so help to reduce local air pollution contributing to a healthier environment. The expansion of charging facilities across the County Borough assists the transition to non-combustion engined vehicles.
- A More Equal Wales – Whilst the expansion of charging facilities does provide more opportunities for EV drivers to charge their vehicles, especially those who live in terraced houses with no access to private off-street charging, it is recognized that very few people in RCT can afford an Electric Vehicle.
- A Resilient Wales – The adoption of electric vehicles is key to the success of a sustainable low carbon, integrated transport network throughout the County Borough.
- A Cohesive Wales – The visible presence of EV charging points within the County Borough will have a positive effect on public awareness whilst displaying the Council’s outward commitment to climate change action.
- A Vibrant Wales - The implementation of much needed EV charging infrastructure will improve EV uptake thus improving the quality and sustainability of the natural environment whilst providing benefits to the local and regional economy in terms of tourism, residential and business growth.
- A Prosperous Wales - Implementation of the required EV charging infrastructure will boost the Council’s status as a destination for tourism and business growth.
- A Globally Responsible Wales - the introduction of EV charging points will reinforce the Council’s commitment to climate change whilst also striving to achieve a zero-carbon future as defined within Central and Welsh Government legislation

## **11.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1 The intent of this report is in furthering the ambitions for the Council’s Climate Change Agenda.

## **12.0 CONCLUSION**

- 12.1 This report provides an update to members of the Climate Change, Frontline Services & Prosperity Scrutiny Committee regarding the progress made by the Council in promoting the use of electric vehicles, and in achieving progress towards published targets set by both the Climate Change Strategy and the associated EV Charging Strategy.

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**Note: A short 'Active Presentation' will follow this Report**