

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Reference: ECIA477401326

Submitted: 10 January 2023 12:36 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: Bid to the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles for On-Street Residential Charging Point (ORCS) Funding and Procurement of a ChargePoint Provider

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Member Action (CMA)

Overview of policy / decision: Proposal is for Essex County Council (ECC) to submit a bid for funding to the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) for £243,086 to fund the purchase and installation of 66 on-street residential charging points across Essex over a one-year period. We further propose to award a contract to a Charge Point Operator (CPO) who will purchase and install, own, operate, replace (if required), manage, and maintain the charge point assets at no cost to ECC,. As part of this project, the CPO will install and operate, replace (if required), manage, and maintain underground electrical apparatus and electrical feeder pillars, but ECC will own these assets as they will be paid for through the bid to OZEV, if successful.

The proposal is consistent with the aims of Everyone's Essex, which sets out four strategic aims and 20 commitments. Within the strategic aim of strong inclusive and sustainable economy it includes a commitment to deliver green growth supporting technologies and business models to transition the Essex Economy to net zero. Everyone's Essex also makes a commitment to supporting people to switch to more sustainable travel options so that we can achieve our targets for achieving net zero carbon emissions.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Enable residents across Essex, particularly those without access to off-street parking and private charging the opportunity to uptake and use an electric vehicle, for necessary car journeys. The charging points will help to support the transition to sustainable transport.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Mark Ash (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: New policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: The project will be assessed against Key Performance Indicators to ensure the charging network is reliable and sufficiently managed and maintained and easy to use. This information will be provided on a monthly basis to ECC by the selected CPO. It will help to collect data on EV take up and charging behaviours across Essex which can be used to inform future decisions.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: Yes

Employees: Yes

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy, High Quality Environment, Health, Independence and Wellbeing for All Ages

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Economy?: Infrastructure, Future growth and investment, Green growth, Levelling up the economy

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment: Net zero, Transport and built environment, Green communities, Levelling up the environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Health: Healthy lifestyles, Levelling up health

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: None

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: None

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: None

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: High

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: None

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: None

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The proposal will have a positive impact on all electric vehicle users across Essex, and those who are thinking about transition to EVs. This includes people who have physical disabilities, because the designs of the charging points will consider the relevant regulations to ensure the chargepoints can be used by everyone.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: Please see above, ECC stipulates the design of the charging points be inclusive.

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: None

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: None

Harlow

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Harwich

Nature of impact: None

Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Canvey Island

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The locations for the charging points were chosen via residential requests and in collaboration with district and borough local authority colleagues. The locations selected are incorporate the requirements of the bidding criteria and will also serve the wider community as they will be available to use by the general public.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: N/A

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children

Nature of impact: None

Veterans

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: It will provide working families with opportunities to use an electric car. The charging points might also give unemployed residents the opportunity to access employment opportunities, for example, placements that offer an electric vehicle as part of the employee benefits package.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: N/A

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

People living in urban or over-populated areas

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The charging points will be available to use by people anywhere, whether they live there or are visiting.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: N/A

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or

adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: None

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: N/A

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: N/A

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?: Yes

Do you know what products, materials, and qualified built environment professionals you will be using?

Are you maximising the opportunity to source materials locally and maximise use of sustainable materials such as wood?: Yes

Are you using a qualified architect / design team / consultant with the experience and capability to design and secure planning permission to deliver to the highest carbon zero building standards?: N/A

Are you clear that the builder, sub-contractor is qualified and capable of delivering climate resilient buildings (noting risks including subsidence, flooding, overheating), to the highest net zero carbon build quality?: Yes

Is your proposed development / building using the best practice guidance and advice on design quality, climate change and health?

Are you using the design quality and advice provided by the Essex Design Guide?: Yes

Are you using the Climate Change guidance and advice provide by the Essex Design Guide?: Yes

Are you providing a policy compliant development which accords with the District Local Plan policies?:
Yes

Are using the Health and Wellbeing guidance provided by the Essex Design Guide?: Yes

Have you provided a costed net zero option for consideration?: N/A

Is your proposed development / building as efficient as possible?

Is the Energy performance Certificate (EPC) rating of the achieving and EPC A+ or net zero carbon standard?: N/A

Have opportunities to reduce energy use through the use of smart digital systems been considered?: N/A

Does your development by design avoid the need for air conditioning?: N/A

Does your new development have water efficiency measures in place?: N/A

Do you know where your energy is coming from and how much of it comes from renewable sources?

Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?: N/A

Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?: N/A

Is your new or extended development using a renewable heat source e.g. district heating or a form of heat pump?: No

Is your development resilient to climate risks including flooding, overheating and subsidence?

Is your site at risk of coastal erosion? Is there a plan in place to protect the coastline: if the coastline is being allowed to erode, this may impact the lifetime of your site.: N/A

Have you reviewed environment agency to ascertain your flood risk? Do you need to put in place mitigation such as sustainable drainage?: N/A

Water is scarce and needs to be absorbed into the land wherever possible. Are you prioritising nature based flood risk mitigations such as sustainable drainage, water butts, planting and ponds which protect against water scarcity?: N/A

Are you using external planting, green walls and green roofs to insulate the building and provide shading to cut risks of overheating?: N/A

Is your development supporting active travel and minimising pollution?

Does your site allow connection to key public transport and active travel routes?: No

Are you using Green Infrastructure to interrupt the pathway of carborne pollutants to the public e.g. use of hedges, shrubs and trees?: N/A

Have you provided space for secure cycle parking, showering, cycle and walking pathways on site etc?: N/A

Does the building have adequate space for recycling and waste separation?: N/A

Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?: No

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: Negative

Extent of impact

Built Environment / Energy: Low

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: The charging points themselves could be considered to be visually intrusive but this will be taken in to account during the design process to ensure the visual impacts are minimal. The CPO will be required to work with the energy provider to look for more renewable forms of energy to fuel the charging points.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts: As above.

What actions will be undertaken to mitigate negative impacts, including timescales: As above.

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 10/01/2023

Name of person completing the ECIA: Katie Pudney

Email address of person completing the ECIA: katie.pudney@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Climate, Environment and Customer Services

Your service area: Highways and Transportation

Your team: Sustainable Transport

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: No

Email address of Head of Service: tracey.vickers@essex.gov.uk