

Equality and Safety Impact Assessment

The **Public Sector Equality Duty** (Section 149 of the Equality Act) requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between different people carrying out their activities.

The Equality Duty supports good decision making – it encourages public bodies to be more efficient and effective by understanding how different people will be affected by their activities, so that their policies and services are appropriate and accessible to all and meet different people's needs. The Council's Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) includes an assessment of the community safety impact assessment to comply with Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and will enable the Council to better understand the potential impact of proposals and consider mitigating action.

Name or Brief Description of Proposal	The Electric Vehicle Strategy sets out the approach the council will take to encourage and facilitate the uptake of EVs through provision of a comprehensive charging network which can meet future demand and use cases for electric vehicles across the city.
Brief Service Profile (including number of customers)	
<p>A newer responsibility for all local authorities has been the provision of public Electric Vehicle charging points. While many charge points are located on private property and owned privately, local authorities still have a key role to play in the rollout of this charging infrastructure in line with new nationally led policy and funding opportunities.</p> <p>The council was a relatively early adopter of electric technology and saw the potential in its introduction and benefits to drivers and residents alike. With the help of Government funding, it invested in electric vehicle charging with a public and internal network of chargers across the city.</p> <p>As of October 2023, Southampton City Council owns and manages 46 public chargers at 17 locations offering up to 59 vehicles to charge at any one time making it the largest provider of charging facilities in the city. To date these chargers have mostly been located in the council's city centre multi-storey car parks and have been well utilised, seeing a steady increase in use since first installed.</p>	
Summary of Impact and Issues	
The council have monitored a rapid increase in the use of existing chargers reflecting national statistics around the increase in EV car sales, highlighting the success of national efforts and investments into incentivise EVs. In	

2022, 265,000 EV registrations in the UK were recorded, an increase of 40% on 2021, and 8,700 new public EV chargers came online. This increase is in part due to the government's committed ban on conventional petrol and diesel cars in 2030 as well as growing consumer confidence in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

It's expected that the number and proportion of EVs driving in the city's roads will continue to increase as consumer confidence in EVs increases and more affordable models come onto the market.

The strategy sets out how the council intends to meet this upcoming demand for Electric Vehicle charging and encourage more drivers to consider an electric vehicle.

A significant challenge is ensuring that there is enough on-street charging provision for those residents who do not have the option of installing their own charger on a driveway. This challenge is made more complex due to the limited availability of investment capital. The publication of a dedicated EV Strategy has been deemed a requirement of the application process for Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, which the council is looking to secure. The LEVI capital funding made available by the Department for Transport is primarily designated for use by local authorities to increase on-street charging capability.

Potential Positive Impacts

The council are committed to reducing the impacts road transport and congestion can have on our residents and the environment. Electric Vehicles can play an important role in tackling these issues including;

Air quality Owing to the lack of a tailpipe, EVs can help reduce levels of certain pollutants

Climate Change While EVs are associated with upstream emissions and emissions during construction, on balance they are less impactful than standard combustion engine vehicles.

Noise Noise can have a large impact on the health and wellbeing of individuals. In an urban setting, much of this impact is from the engines of road vehicles. EVs are typically much quieter than combustion engine vehicles and therefore contribute towards mitigating this impact.

The strategy will also raise the profile of EV charging and likely increase the engagement of residents seeking or considering a move to an electric vehicle. Input from residents will be vital in determining locations to install EV infrastructure and ensuring its use is maximised.

The publication of the Strategy is a pre-requisite for current funding applications and will likely support future applications and can also help shape the development of any partnership delivery arrangements for EV capability.

Responsible Service Manager	Helen Taverner
Date	
Approved by Senior Manager	
Date	

Potential Impact

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
Age	Challenges, particularly for elderly users who are having to adopt technology, where multiple apps are required to access chargepoints implemented by different suppliers.	When implementing EV infrastructure look to ensure standardised technology and wherever possible standardised support arrangements where issues occur with the technology.
Disability	Access to EV charging infrastructure doesn't always consider users with adapted vehicles or additional space requirements.	Ensure national guidance and policy around accessibility is adhered to in the expansion of EV infrastructure – primarily reference to PAS 1899:2022 EV Accessible Charging Specification
Gender Reassignment	No impact	
Care Experienced	No impact	
Marriage and Civil Partnership	No impact	
Pregnancy and Maternity	No impact	
Race	No impact	
Religion or Belief	No impact	
Sex	No impact	
Sexual Orientation	No impact	
Community Safety	Residents requiring on street charging capability may have to walk a significant distance	Working with partners/suppliers to ensure a geographical

Impact Assessment	Details of Impact	Possible Solutions & Mitigating Actions
	between their home and the nearest EV chargepoint – potentially late at night and/or having leave their car in an unfamiliar location.	spread of on street EV charging infrastructure across the city so that residents all have access locally.
Poverty	Perceived lack of EV infrastructure capacity requirements and limited profitability in less affluent areas could traditionally result in limited investment in those areas.	Ensure when working with partners/suppliers delivering infrastructure that there is an equal spread across the city and that certain areas are not neglected.
Health & Wellbeing	Some groups may feel that by simply swapping a petrol/diesel car for electric vehicle will have no direct health benefits for individuals unlike switching to walking or cycling.	Maintain a clear view that the move to EV is part of a wider strategy to improve the health of residents and that it does not replace initiatives to encourage greater physical activity.
Other Significant Impacts	<p>There are likely to be some residents who object to public EV infrastructure being introduced in close proximity to their homes or perhaps the move to EV in principle.</p> <p>There may be some residents that feel that the implementation of EV infrastructure is not moving fast enough.</p>	<p>The strategy will help through providing the rationale. There is a need to ensure that there is transparent communication around charging locations and any restrictions that might be put in place i.e. marked bays or preferential spaces for EV users.</p> <p>Continue to provide two-way dialogue options for residents and provide regular communication around the delivery plan/process for installing infrastructure.</p>

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