

Report of the Portfolio Holders for Economic Development and Asset Management, and Resources and Personnel Policy

EV Charging Bays in Council Car Parks

1. Purpose of Report

To ask Cabinet to consider making at least one Electric Vehicle (EV) charging bay in Council car parks, where installed, fully accessible.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to CONSIDER the proposal to make at least one EV charging bay in Council car parks, where installed, fully accessible and whether accessible spaces should be designated specifically for use by disabled drivers and RESOLVE accordingly.

3. Detail

EV charging bays were installed by Nottingham City Council in 2018 in the following car parks:

- Portland Street, Beeston – 8 charging points
- Cliffe Hill Avenue, Stapleford – 8 charging points
- Victoria Street car park, Stapleford – 4 charging points
- Victoria Street car park, Eastwood – 8 charging points
- Victoria Street car park, Kimberley – 4 charging points

Most of the charging points have been placed on pedestals/kerb edges set back from the parking space making it difficult for wheelchair users to access the plug connection or read the digital display. The points are located to accommodate/feed two standard parking spaces which are generally in a row of existing spaces.

In October 2022, an accessible electric vehicle (EV) charging standard was launched to support the rollout of accessible and inclusive public charging infrastructure. The standard, PAS 1899:2022, was produced by the British Standards Institution (BSI) and co-sponsored by Motability, the national disability charity, and the Government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV). PAS 1899 sets out the minimum specification for an accessible public charging point, by providing detailed requirements and recommendations on how to provide accessible public charging infrastructure for EVs.

The Council signed an agreement in 2018 to maintain a set number of EV charging spaces and these spaces cannot be reduced by reconfiguring parking spaces to accommodate accessibility EV parking spaces. However, works can

be undertaken at each location to meet the accessibility requirements either with currently designated spaces or non-designated spaces, at existing EV charging car park locations retrospectively to help meet the industry standards. The works could include:

- levelling and re-surfacing of the bays to ensure a smooth ground surface
- re-aligning and re-marking bays to ensure wider and longer access/egress at the front, back and side
- installation of dropped kerbs/ramps adjacent to the charge points where possible
- regular cutting back/maintenance of shrubs/planting to ensure clear access and improved visibility
- additional signage and navigation should car parks require it

The car park at Victoria Street, Stapleford is being replaced by a new facility on Derby Road which includes accessible charging bays, dropped kerbs and safe areas to use the charging points.

The total cost of works to provide one accessible space would be approximately £7,550. However, a second space could also be made accessible at the Victoria Street, Eastwood and Cliffe Hill Avenue car parks for use by any motorist at a cost of around £4,000. To ensure that a charging facility is available for disabled drivers, Members could consider designating at least one bay in each of the four car parks as blue badge bays.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 as it affects two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There is currently no budgetary provision in the General Fund budget for these works which are considered to be capital. If Members were minded to support the proposal, an additional budget of up to £11,550 would be added to the Capital Programme in 2024/25. This would have to be funded from prudential borrowing, with a charge to the General Fund, unless capital grant funding can be alternatively sourced.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

There are no direct legal implications from this report.

8. Human Resources Implications

The comments from the Human Resources manager were as follows:

Not Applicable

9. Union Comments

The Union comments were not required.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

An equality impact assessment is not required.

13. Background Papers

Nil.