

Council – 12 November 2018

Notice of motion – Electric vehicle charging scheme

A notice of motion has been received from Councillors S. Coughlan, D. Coughlan, Shires, Ward, Burley, Jeavons, Jukes, Chambers, Robertson, Underhill, Nawaz and Hussain:

That from 1 January 2019 all new housing, new or replacement domestic garages and business/commercial planning applications to Walsall Council include the provision of an “electric vehicle charging scheme”; and that any such scheme would not become binding on the applicant unless included by the local planning authority as a condition of any planning permission granted.

Response:

The move to electric vehicles is in accordance with Government Policy and this matter is an integral part of the actions necessary to address the concerns around Air Quality. Members will recall that a Motion was considered at Council on 17 September 2018 relating to actions to address poor air quality and identified vehicle emissions as a key aspect, notably nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

Along with 33 other local authorities including Dudley MBC, Sandwell MBC, Wolverhampton CC, the Council was issued a Ministerial Direction on 23 March 2018. This direction required the Council to consider intervention measures that could bring forward a reduction in NO₂ concentrations on identified road links in the shortest possible time. This Council then submitted its Targeted Feasibility Study to address and identify its actions. Economy and Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2018 considered a detailed report on this matter. DeFRA has since confirmed that this Council's action plan, which includes working with Highways England for improvements to M6 Junction 10 and other sustainable/modal shift proposals, will address the need and no further actions have been specifically identified.

The **Black Country Air Quality Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** sets out guidance for addressing air quality issues, especially as a result of transport emissions and is aimed at all those involved in the submission and determination of planning applications where air quality needs to be considered.

This SPD was formally adopted by Walsall Council's Cabinet on the 8 February 2017 – see Council link for full details:

https://go.walsall.gov.uk/Portals/0/images/importeddocuments/black_country_air_quality_spd.pdf

This SPD already requires all new residential and commercial developments to have electric charging points provision and includes the necessary specifications, to enable many of variable charging systems and cars to be accommodated. There are occasions when this cannot be provided or it may be impracticable, for example premises where there is no off road provision, communal facilities and flats etc, but provision is always a consideration and conditioned when appropriate.

Further information can be seen as there is also a Question to Council on this Agenda relating to the Council's actions to improve access to electric vehicle charging points.

Simon Neilson,
Executive Director, Economy and Environment
2 November 2018