Environment Scrutiny Committee - 4th March 2020

Report on a draft Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy for Gloucestershire

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Purpose of report: For members to consider the draft Strategy and provide feedback

Backround

At Environment Scrutiny Committee on 15th January 2020 members received a presentation on electric vehicle infrastructure and discussed the challenges facing residents, businesses and councils in transitioning from conventional fuelled vehicles to low carbon electric vehicles by 2050.

Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) has commissioned Atkins to produce an Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy to provide a policy position for the County to progress actions to enable increases in ULEV uptake. The term ULEV is used here to include battery electric vehicles as well as other types of electric and hybrid vehicles.

The aim of this report is to share an early draft of this strategy with committee members for their feedback whilst still at a formative stage in the process. The draft strategy and implementation plan will then refined and presented to Cabinet for endorsement and for authority to procure the electric vehicle infrastructure and other measures needed to deliver the strategy.

Introduction

Atkins has produced the attached draft strategy following research of ULEV strategy examples from around the UK and understanding the situation and aspirations of GCC to expand the ULEV network and raise awareness of ULEVs to encourage switches to cleaner fuels.

The draft ULEV strategy has been written for the ownership and adoption by GCC, therefore where text states that 'we will' lead, enable, explore and partner, this refers to GCC, not Atkins.

A short powerpoint presentation will be given at the Scrutiny to introduce the draft ULEV strategy at a high-level, before allowing time for discussion.

Overview of draft Strategy

The draft ULEV Strategy document is included for reference with this cover report. Both the presentation and strategy follow the structure summary presented below:

1. **Introduction**, including need for a ULEV strategy;
2. **Policy context,** including national, regional and local across sectors (planning, transport energy, industry);
3. **Vision**, overarching policy and objectives, including increasing ULEV uptake to meet wider objectives (e.g. climate emergency);
4. **Mapping of existing situation** of ULEV charge points and ULEV ownership;
5. **Proposals for ULEV network**, broken down into types of chargers, users, locations, types of vehicle etc based on mapping and research;
6. **Assessment Criteria** for proposed charging network and prioritisation;
7. **Potential Funding sources**, this section provides a context of funding sources available as of February 2020;
8. **Actions** to indicate where GCC can Lead, Enable, Explore and Partner others for delivery, recognising that some aspects will have to be delivered by third parties. Actions may cover the following aspects:

a. Infrastructure
   ACTION 1: We will **enable** the expansion of Gloucestershire's ULEV charging network.
b. Funding
   ACTION 2: We will **lead** on seeking opportunities to increase uptake of ULEVs with neutral revenue implications to GCC through bidding to Central Government funding sources and generating income through charging points. will enable the expansion of Gloucestershire's ULEV charging network.
c. Policy and Governance
   ACTION 3: We will **enable** new development to install active or futureproofed passive charging infrastructure by working with Local Planning Authorities to condition provision through the planning process.
   ACTION 4: We will **lead** on contributing towards the increase in the use of ULEVs in Gloucestershire by seeking opportunities to switch GCC fleet of operational vehicles and pool cars to ULEV and providing incentives to GCC employees to switch their own vehicles to ULEVs.
   ACTION 5: We will **explore** opportunities to meet our vision by ensuring that ULEV uptake is incorporated into policies across GCC and that responsibility for delivery is multi-disciplinary.
d. Public Transport
   ACTION 6: We will **partner** with public transport operators to identify funding opportunities to convert bus fleets to ULEVs.
e. Taxis and Rail
   ACTION 7: We will **partner** with taxi operators to encourage switches to ULEV by offering business grants and other funding opportunities and improving coverage of charging infrastructure at taxi ranks. We will **partner** with Rail and Bus Station operators to implement charging points for car, taxis and buses.
f. E-Bikes and Micromobility
   ACTION 8: We will **explore** opportunities to offer grants or loans to businesses and citizens for e-bike purchases and explore opportunities for shared use of e-cargo bikes or other micromobility options.
g. Engagement
   ACTION 9: We will **enable** businesses to encourage ULEV uptake among their employees by offering grants to install charge points at workplaces and identifying ULEV champions.
   ACTION 10: We will **explore** opportunities for car club providers to make a switch to ULEVs and providing charging infrastructure in car club bays.
   ACTION 11: We will **lead** on raising awareness of ULEVs in Gloucestershire by incorporating information on ULEVs and the charging network into our travel information documents, engagement materials and on our website.
h. Future Innovation
   ACTION 12: We will **explore** innovative approaches that will help us achieve our vision for ULEV uptake and be aware of changes available to the market that we can promote.
   ACTION 13: We will **explore** and seek to **partner** with organisations that are advancing technology in renewable energy sources and grid balancing to ensure the impact of increasing the ULEV charging network is sustainable.

9. **Implementation plan** to identify actions, set out targets for delivery, potential funding sources, delivery partners, timescales, levels of risk and monitoring criteria.