

<b>Committee:</b> Ordinary Council	<b>Date:</b> 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Members' Written Questions – Annual Review	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Report of:</b> Claire Mayhew – Corporate Manager (Democratic Services)	<b>Public</b>
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Chair's questions will be taken under the Annual Review item as per last year. Members can ask up to two questions to two different Chairs.

Any Member may ask a Chair a written or oral question on

- any matter included within the Annual Review; or
- any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Council's area and which falls within the area of responsibility of the Chair's committee.

The period allowed for written and oral questions and answers will not exceed 60 minutes without leave of the Mayor.

Two written questions have been received from Cllr Naylor, as follows:

### **Question 1**

It was good to see the installation of the Electric Vehicle charging point in the Council carpark, and that it appears to be well used and appreciated. I also understand from a recent conversation I had with an officer, that the current overflow car park at Kings George's will soon have installed 5-10 EV charging points.

However, EV charging points at Williams Hunter Way car park have not been installed, and other potential ideal locations like Shenfield High Street and its Car Park do not have any charging points.

Can Members and the Public here, be provided with an update on the progress of installation of charging points around the Borough and the location of these points and the type/standard of the points, any difficulties the Council is facing installing points, and whether the Council has taken up any opportunity to access Central or Regional government schemes/funding, for example, the 'On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme'.

### **Response:**

Thank you Councillor, the procurement for the provider of the EV Chargers is nearly complete and confirmation of appointment will happen in the next two weeks. The

council will then have a contractor in place who will roll out EV Charging Points in a number of Council owned Car Parks including King Georges, the Multi Storey Car Park, William Hunter Way, Chatham Way, Hunters Avenue in Shenfield, Friars Avenue in Shenfield, Market Place Ingatestone and Bell Mead Ingatestone. Once the contractor is in place a timeline will be produced confirming when installation of the EV Chargers to the different locations is scheduled.

The EV Chargers provided will be a mixture of Fast Charging and Rapid charging which will depend on the amount of power that will be accessible at the different locations. The contractor will apply for and use government funding where appropriate. With regards on-street EV Charging, Brentwood Council are engaged with Essex County Council who are seeking to roll out pilots later this year and we will continue to discuss this with them.

## **Question 2**

The cost of fossil fuel derived energy is on the rise, predicated to shapely rise again in the coming weeks and months.

Given the high cost of energy, not just in Monetary terms, but the burning of fossil fuels has for example on the Air Quality in Brentwood and its associated health implications. Will the Council take every opportunity during this difficult period for consumers and residents and what should be a decade of transition away from dirty and problematic fossil fuels, to improve provision and access to Public Transport, high quality Walking and Cycling infrastructure, EV Charging Points, and building that are less reliant on fossil fuel energy.

Whether it's for example, accessing schemes or funding from Central/Regional government, lobbying Central and Regional government for help and investment, and ensuring plans for development in the borough are up to standard, and developers contribute to the task.

## **Response:**

Thank you Councillor for your question. I can confirm that the Council will support initiatives that encourage or allow access to funding for our residents to undertake 'Environmental' projects in order to reduce their own carbon footprint. The Council will be investing in more EV Chargers across Council owned car parks and new developments must meet much tighter environmental requirements when they build than before. The Council have already been successfully awarded from the LADS 2 programme £202k funding to retrofit some of our HRA housing with the council setting aside £66k match funds to support the full unlocking of this funding.