

Report to:	Cabinet
Date:	12 September 2018
Title:	Proposals to develop Environmental Initiatives
Report of:	Ian Fitzpatrick, Director of Regeneration and Planning
Cabinet member:	Councillor Jonathan Dow, Cabinet Member for Place Services
Ward(s):	All
Purpose of report:	To approve a series of environmental initiatives
Decision type:	Key
Officer recommendation(s):	<p>Cabinet is recommended to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Authorise the Strategy & Partnership Lead, Quality Environment, to conduct a desk-based feasibility study for the potential of free drinking water provision within council-owned parks and in other public places within Eastbourne borough, working with partners and stakeholders. (2) Agree to support the national 'Refill' campaign through social media and as appropriate. (3) Delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Planning, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Place Services, to bid for funding, supported by an appropriate business case, to invest in electric vehicle (EV) charging technology and infrastructure, working with partners and other local authorities. (4) Authorise the Strategy & Partnership Lead, Quality Environment, in consultation with the Cabinet member for Place Services to prepare a Sustainability Policy to provide a framework for council activities for consideration and approval at Cabinet later in the year. (5) Note the launch and progress to date of the 'Single-Use Plastics' project.
Reasons for recommendations:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Drinking water provision could be made available to the general public in areas of high foot traffic and where other access to water may be limited, for example parks. This will support various initiatives currently prominent in the political and public arena including the reduction of single use plastics and promoting healthy and active lifestyles.

- (2) The 'Refill' campaign, described in paragraph 1.2, has arrived in the area through community activism.
- (3) A charging point feasibility study will provide for an evaluation of the opportunities available to Eastbourne Borough Council (EBC) with regards to EV charging on its own estate in light of the national move towards the provision of this infrastructure.
- (4) The adoption of a set of guiding principles in the form of an overarching Sustainability Policy would bring EBC into line with many other councils nationally. The policy would support planning policy and guidance, guide procurement decisions, potentially reduce costs with regards to energy and waste (through staff education and project initiatives) and generally work to ensure the council has 'its own house in order' before guiding others.
- (5) The Single-Use Plastic (SUP) project started in May as a result of the Council's aim to become SUP free where it is reasonable to do so by 31 December 2018

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1 Introduction

1.1 Drinking water provision:

The 2017 YouGov survey commissioned by BRITA UK and Keep Britain Tidy 'Understanding provision, usage and perceptions of free drinking water to the public in the UK' found that more than 70% of people surveyed feel uncomfortable asking for a glass of tap water when out and about and only a quarter know their rights when it comes to asking for a glass of tap water in public buildings and businesses, possibly leading them to buy bottled water or other drinks. 59% would be more likely to carry a reusable water bottle if tap water was freely available or they knew that businesses would willingly refill their bottle. The report also revealed that 73% of people would like greater availability of free tap water.

Refill is a national, practical tap water campaign launched in Bristol in 2015 by City to Sea, a non-profit organisation aimed to 'connect our actions to our oceans' by running campaigns to prevent marine plastic pollution. Refill aims to make refilling your bottle as easy, convenient and cheap as possible by introducing refill points on every street. Participating cafes, bars, banks, shops, galleries and other businesses simply put a sticker in their window alerting passers-by to the fact that they are welcome to come in and fill up their bottle for free.

1.2 Electric Vehicle Charging:

The transport sector overtook energy in 2016 as the UK's single biggest source of carbon emissions as energy production has moved away from coal and towards renewables and consumers have opted to purchase larger new cars. Owing to this and wider air quality issues, the Government has announced its intention to ban pure combustion vehicles from sale by 2040 and has created various grant based funding streams to encourage uptake and development of Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) technology.

Vehicle manufacturers are moving towards phasing out fully petrol/diesel vehicles including Volvo, which recently announced it would no longer manufacture new pure combustion engine vehicles from 2019. Although predictions for the take up of ULEVs in the near future are uncertain, the make-up of the new car market is visibly changing with both hybrid and pure electric vehicles undoubtedly increasing.

The use of pure Electric Vehicles (EVs) and Plug-in Hybrids (PHEVs) brings with it a shift change in behaviour with regards to 'fueling' the vehicle, with owners largely charging at home over night and then 'topping up' whenever there is an opportunity. This requires the provision of charging points at sites where vehicles are parked for a variety of durations during the day, including workplaces (longer charges possible) and destinations such as supermarkets, public car parks and leisure facilities (where fast and rapid chargers are more suitable).

The Office for Low Emission Vehicles provides funding that currently provides for 75% of the cost of charge points for residential use and could be used to install points within car parks that are sited in areas where residents do not have access to off-street parking and there is limited on-street parking availability. The points would allow for overnight charging of EVs. Sites for consideration would include those in the vicinity of the Seaside area or the town centre as examples.

Reducing emissions from transport and encouraging ULEV take-up will contribute to reducing carbon emissions and improve air quality within the, borough/town working towards meeting objectives within the Council Plan and the County's Local Transport Plan.

2 Outline Proposal

2.1 Drinking water provision:

The provision of more drinking water facilities within Eastbourne borough would help to provide free and accessible tap water to those who need it, whether or not they have a reusable bottle on them, reducing the need to purchase potentially less healthy drinks in single-use containers, on the go. This will support the aims of EBC, to reduce single-use plastics in our community.

As a first step to this project officers will conduct a desk-based study to assess the potential for drinking water installations in parks and other locations where there is a council-owned and managed water source available, for example at public toilets. Possible locations and costs would then be presented in a later paper to Cabinet. As a guide a typical basic stainless steel water fountain retails around

£500 but a simple push tap would be even easier to install and maintain.

A £3000 budget is available for spending on this project within the 2018/19 year. The cost of the water and the ongoing maintenance costs would need to be factored into existing contracts.

The installations would need to be supported in parallel by the community-led national Refill campaign, which EBC can encourage and support. This campaign will involve local businesses signing up to offer free water refills to both customers and non-customers to provide a network of refill points across the town. This work will be largely conducted and driven by volunteers alongside access to council-owned refill points (such as putting the drinking water facilities at the Bandstand Toilets onto the Refill App) and providing support to the Plastic Free Eastbourne steering group to increase the number of businesses signing up.

2.2 Electric Vehicle Charging:

East Sussex County Council, as highways authority, is considering its position with regard to authorising on-street charge points, anticipating a policy being developed over the course of this year. Given this, EBC could investigate the feasibility of provision within council-owned parking facilities that are located in areas where there is limited residential off-street parking. Sites could include car parks along Grand Parade and town centre locations.

Redevelopment sites currently being taken forward by the Clear Futures JV will be included in the study and future procurement to improve the economies of scale. Work will also be co-ordinated with other local authorities within East Sussex in order to try and join up our approaches where possible and to share research.

We will conduct an initial informal public consultation to determine views on EV charging and future needs across the borough and beyond. Potential locations will then be agreed, there will be consultation with the EST and OLEV with regards to any funding applications and we will carry out a soft market test to gauge total costs.

Management and liability options for the sites would need to be agreed prior to procurement, including fee charging models.

2.3 Sustainability Policy:

The sustainability policy would comprise a number of specific core values guided by the generally accepted definition of sustainable development:

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” Brundtland Report, 1987

The core values will echo commitments already made to residents in the Corporate Plan and will direct them as to how we operate our own business. The policy will support the move towards a higher standard of sustainability in the planning process and demonstrate that EBC is considering environmental impacts across the organisation.

2.4 Current project – Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) within council operations:

Since the motion agreed at Council in February 2018, progress has been made towards reducing single-use plastics in the council work place.

The project aims to decrease the use of SUPs in council offices in relation to day to day activities where reasonable to do so; and to encourage staff to consider SUP alternatives when procuring goods and services.

By the time of this Cabinet meeting (12th September) audits of council offices across both Lewes and Eastbourne have been undertaken in order to determine the scale of the problem, 'quick wins' implemented (such as no longer purchasing plastic cups and removing these items from vending machines where possible) and where items can be substituted for re-usable or non-plastic alternatives within existing budgets this has been done.

The staff survey has also been completed and it revealed that in just 1 week, the 200 staff who took part used: 287 pieces of plastic wrap, 116 coffee cups, 265 plastic bags, 275 bottles and 264 food containers.

The staff pledge to reduce SUP use has now been launched and a repeat staff survey will take place along with a repeat office audit in November/December. We hope to reduce our use of SUPs by 50%.

3 Outcome expected and performance management

3.1 Drinking water provision:

The project will result in the provision of drinking water at key feasible and cost efficient sites across the borough subject to future approval.

The costs of water supply and ongoing maintenance at these locations will be monitored, following which feasibility of provision at other sites will be investigated.

3.2 The Council will support the national 'Refill' project and encourage local community groups with similar aims. This will support the Council in achieving its aim to support making Eastbourne 'Plastic-Free' as agreed at Cabinet in February 2018.

Electric Vehicle Charging:

3.3 The outcome of this project is anticipated to be the scoping of provision of new electric vehicle charging infrastructure within public carparks at minimal cost to EBC. These would be primarily for local residents with no access to off-street parking to charge their cars but could also be available to others. This would encourage the take-up of plug-in vehicles and support Central Government objectives. This project would be subject to a robust business case.

Current project – Single-Use Plastics (SUPs) within council operations:

Usual project management principles have been applied. The outcome of the project will be assessed through the results of a repeat audit at the end of

December 2018

4 Consultation

- 4.1 We will be running an informal consultation on EV charging during September to gauge interest and need.

5 Corporate plan and council policies

5.1 Corporate Plan:

- 2020 Eastbourne vision: a clean and attractive low carbon town, producing less waste than before, with a high quality built environment, excellent parks and open spaces, served by a number of good transport options.

A low carbon town

Vision: We will be moving towards becoming a low carbon town with a wide range of locally derived environmentally friendly initiatives.

Achieved through:

- Using Clear Futures, the joint venture between Eastbourne and Lewes Council and a private sector organisation, to deliver local energy and sustainability ambitions for the next 20-30 years
- Reducing the amount of domestic waste and increased recycling

5.2 21 February Council resolved to:

- consider the use of appropriate plastic free alternatives wherever possible, and support plastic free initiatives within Eastbourne.

6 Business case and alternative option(s) considered

6.1 Drinking water provision:

£3000 has been allocated to this project from pre-existing funds which is available for the year 2018/19.

East Sussex Highways do not object in principle to the installation of drinking water facilities in public areas, should this be considered an option in future, provided the design, size and location are acceptable to them and, if relevant, the Borough Conservation Officer. At this time costs are unknown and a feasibility study would need to be conducted to assess the viability and need of such installations.

Supporting the Refill campaign will support this provision and provide access to water across the town negating the need for new council funded installations in certain areas so monies can be directed to areas of need.

6.2 Electric Vehicles:

Currently OLEV grant funding currently provides two options:

- (a) A workplace charge scheme that is limited to £300 for each socket up to a maximum of 20 across all sites for each application. Only one application can be made. There needs to be either an existing need or the intention to encourage

uptake of personal or fleet EV's within the organisation.

(b) An on-street residential scheme. A known barrier to uptake of EV's is the limited availability of off-street parking. This scheme aims to provide access to on-street parking charge points to meet the needs of local residents through provision of a 75% grant for capital costs of procuring and installing the device and parking bay with a maximum of £7,500 per device. Applicants need to demonstrate a commitment to providing these facilities and must secure a minimum of 25% capital funds via sources other than OLEV. As per the previous bid, this could possibly be found through commercial partners. This funding can be applied to provision in car parks where there is no off-street parking for residents and access is possible overnight.

East Sussex County Council, as highways authority, has advised that its position with regard to on-street charge points is under consideration, either as new street furniture or integrated into existing assets (such as lampposts).

Management and liability options for the sites would need to be resolved at Cabinet at a later date, including fee charging models.

7 Financial appraisal

- 7.1 Should funding be required in support of investing in EV charge point infrastructure, a bid for EBC budget will be made through the S&FP process.

8 Legal implications

- 8.1 Under the Localism Act 2011 section 1, the general power of competence, the Council has the power to do anything that an individual can do that is not specifically prohibited or to which a more particular power or duty does not apply. The actions proposed in this Report fall within this power. Report considered by Legal on 7 August 2018 (IKEN-7391-Joint-MW).

9 Risk management implications

- 9.1 The recommendations in the report present low risk proposals e.g. support of a community-led campaign ('Refill') and feasibility of EV charging infrastructure

10 Equality analysis

- 10.1 EaFA 'no relevance' report submitted

11 Appendices

- 11.1 None

12 Background papers

None