

MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Cllr Mark Coker

Date received by Chief Exec's Business Support: 7 February 2022

ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk

To the Cabinet Member for: Transport – Cllr Drea

Question:

Why is it that electric charging points are being constructed around the city and ward members and the public were not informed before and going forward? What are we doing to rectify this?

Answer:

The installation of the EV chargers forms part of a suite of mobility initiatives within the Climate Emergency Action Plan, which sets out the action the City Council will take to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Nearly 30 per cent of Plymouth's carbon emissions come from transport and the electrification of vehicles have been identified as a key means to tackling this problem. The installation of chargers now helps to future proof the city as electric vehicles replace regular combustion engines over the next few years. In a recent survey 85 per cent of residents, felt that the Council needed to provide more charging points and these installations help us respond to that. The City Council has therefore developed an EV Charger Programme comprising the installation of 615 EV charge points, of which to date 185 have been installed.

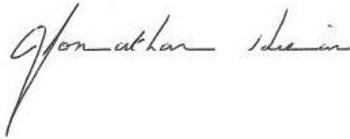
Councillor Mark Coker and Councillor Sue Dann at a Joint Cabinet Member for Transport/Cabinet Member for Environment One-to-One meeting held on 07 April 2021 approved the locations for the proposed EV chargers.

The installation of EV chargers is permitted development under planning legislation and therefore not subject to formal statutory consultation requirements. The EV chargers do however require a Section 50 licence in order to carry work on the highway. The granting of these licences is not subject to a specific consultation process. Notwithstanding that, ward councillors were emailed on 27 January 2022 informing them of those streets where EV chargers were to be installed. A press release and social media posts were also published on 03 February 2022, detailing the location of the sites. Letters were also sent to residents on the affected streets notifying them of the proposed EV charge installations on 04 February 2022.

It is therefore not correct to say that local ward councillors and local residents were not informed before the works were commenced.

Signed:

Date: 08/02/2022

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jonathan Shein".

Written questions:

- must be submitted to the Monitoring Officer via the Chief Exec's Business Support
- will be replied to within 10 working days
- will be published on the last Friday of each month
- The completed form should be sent to ChiefExecutiveBusinessSupportUnit@plymouth.gov.uk or by post to Chief Exec's Business Support, Ballard House, West Hoe Road, Plymouth PL1 3BJ