



Report to

Council

Meeting Date: 1st March 2022

Public/Private*: Public

Title: **Environment & Transport Portfolio Holder's Report –
Councillor Nigel Christian**

ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING PROJECT (SOSCI)

The SOSCI (Scaling On-Street Charging Infrastructure) research project to roll out electric car charging points is nearing its completion and all the charge points are installed. Five of them, however, await connection by Electricity North West Limited. A charge point at Union Lane, Brampton, was demolished by an out-of-control car over Christmas. The feeder pillar, charge points and barrier have all been replaced and is also waiting for ENWL to reconnect the power. A final report will be submitted to Innovate UK, the project sponsor, including details of the learning from the project.

Fleet challenge As part of our efforts to reduce carbon emissions from Council fleet operations, staff are currently trialling different fully electric vans.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

The Council continued with its campaign over Christmas focussed on fly-tipping at our recycling sites. Cameras, operated under very clear signage, were placed at four of the main supermarket recycling sites. Whilst this problem continues, it is clear that the volume of waste being dumped is reducing with less time spent year on year on the clean-up effort. Evidence is being assessed and currently 51 warning letters are being progressed.

Following successful trials, including across the Christmas campaign, the Enforcement Team have purchased a new camera that will be deployed to tackle fly-tipping.

When needed, the Council continues to refer cases to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution. A recent case resulted in a fine of £660 for a man, who failed to produce waste transfer notes relating to the business he was running, following investigation by Officers into a fly-tipping incident. Due to the covid pandemic, a number of cases are still

awaiting hearing as the courts work to clear the backlog. Currently, the Council has 55 cases awaiting court hearing.

PARKING

Following the announcement at Council meeting on Tuesday, 1st February 2022, Executive met on 21st February 2022 to consider the introduction of a new parking offer this year to support recovery of the high street. This offer will provide free parking every weekend and every Bank Holiday and Public Holiday for twelve months starting from April 2022 in City Centre pay and display car parks. This includes the extra Public Holiday this year to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In addition, to support and encourage visitors during the week, customers using City Council pay and display car parks in the City Centre will pay a reduced parking charge of £1.00 for the first hour of parking, down from £1.30.

Visitors to Talkin Tarn car park will also note that the Council has again frozen the parking charges for the first hour of parking. £1.20 for first hour. We have also doubled the number of annual permits available at Talkin Tarn providing exceptional value for regular visitors, increasing the number of permits from 40 to 80.

PHASE 3 PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME (PSDS) UPDATE

Phase 3 PSDS supports the installation of low-carbon heating measures, alongside heat reduction and energy efficiency measures, as part of a 'whole building' approach within public sector buildings. If successful, this funding will support the delivery of the Carlisle City Council Heat Decarbonisation Plan - the development of which was funded by the successful bid to the previous round - Phase 2 PSDS. Salix – the assessors of the PSDS programme - have contacted the Governance & Regulatory Services Team with queries, but they are still reviewing the application.

GREEN SPACES AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

Tree planting work has been ongoing over the winter months with 84 'standard' trees being planted across the City in our parks and green spaces.

The Grounds Maintenance Team is continuing to upgrade equipment with modern battery powered tools which have the benefits of reduction in noise, emissions and lower servicing costs.

TALKIN TARN PARK RUN

During January, Park Run started at Talkin Tarn with 220 runners attending the first event. It has been really well received and well supported by runners in and around the Carlisle area. It has also brought in additional income to the Tearoom with the increased footfall.