

Report of	Record of	Date
Chief Executive (Introduced by Executive Member (Customer, Streetscene and Environment))	Executive Member Decision	2 March 2023

EV Chargepoint Feasibility and Income Study Contract Award

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	No
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Purpose of the Report

- To obtain Executive Member Approval to award the contract for the EV Chargepoint Feasibility and Income Study to be funded from the Climate Change Top Up Budget
- To provide full details of the recommendation to award contract of the work to EV Heroes due to the price and quality of the bid.

Recommendations

- To approve the award of the contract to EV Heroes for the EV Chargepoint Feasibility and Income Study to be funded from the Climate Change Top Up Budget.

Reasons for recommendations

- The recommendation is based on the mid-range price of £20,450 and quality of the bid meeting the expectations and onsite requirements of the Climate Change Team.

Other options considered and rejected

- None, the work is required for the completion of corporate project and climate change strategy actions. The quotes were sought following procurement advisement and following procurement legislation.

Corporate priorities

- The report relates to the following corporate priorities:

Housing where residents can live well	A green and sustainable borough
An enterprising economy with vibrant local centres in urban and rural areas	Healthy, safe and engaged communities

Background to the report

7. The approved Climate Change Strategy Action Plan includes an action to ‘Complete an assessment of the feasibility and demand for electric vehicle chargepoints within the borough including community facilities and land owned not only by the Council and produce a report with options and recommendations’.
8. This action has also been included within the 2023/24 corporate project for Climate Change.
9. The specification of the Feasibility and Income Study has been considered by a number of groups/colleagues across the Council including; senior management team, leader brief, and the climate change working group.

The EV Chargepoint Feasibility and Income Study Overview

10. The EV Chargepoint Feasibility and Income Study (EVCP Study) is a large piece of work which links to the delivery of a 2023/24 corporate strategy project centred around feasibility, locations, payment options and potential future use of Council installed EV Chargepoints in the borough.
11. SMT and the Climate Change Working Group has previously agreed that this large piece of work requires completion by external consultants due to the technicality and large scale of the study.
12. The study will focus on three main areas of work:
 - a. Potential installation of chargepoint on Council owned car parks (with the view for potential future income and bidding for funding)
 - b. Future innovation projects (more innovative projects which include integrating bike charging and solar panels to EV charging, with a view of potential future funding)
 - c. Potential installation of chargepoints on Council commercial and residential assets (with the view of potential future income)
13. It is worth noting this work will not involve any installation of EV infrastructure, rather this study is to undertake feasibility studies regarding cable fittings, locations, potential future demand and in-depth cost analysis. This will inform future decision making by the Council regarding investment in EV infrastructure.
14. The full proposal of work is attached within Appendix 1

Quotations

15. Following advice from the Procurement Team a total of three quotations were sought for the works overviewed above.
16. The quotations received ranged in price, proposed timescale and quality. The quotes were as follows;
 - a. The EVC Group quoted £7,500 and a 3-week turnover time
 - b. The EV Heroes Group quoted £20,450 and a 9-month turnover time
 - c. The Qarma Group quoted £21,000 and a 10-month turnover time

17. Following a thorough review of the quotes, the quotes were compared against scales of previous work, the feasibility of the timescales provided, previously shown experience, methods displayed of completing the study.
18. The study is very large, with a lot of different facets, which will require a large amount of information as the study is going to contain information which will be directly copied into funding applications, for budget and contract decisions and cable laying capacity. Therefore, it has always been anticipated to require a long time period to complete and a large amount of consultants work hours.
19. EV Heroes displays the most realistic timescales and quality methodology with a high level of previous experience for the lowest price.
20. Whilst the EVC Group provides the lowest price the turnover time of 3-weeks is not feasible, from previous experience with the Council reports from the DNO takes at least 6 weeks which is a minimum requirement of the study. The quotes from EV Heroes and Qarma have provided a more reasonable turnover time of 9 and 10 months.
21. The EVC Group displays the lowest previous experience from previous work and lowest quality of methods compared to EV Heroes and Qarma.
22. EV Heroes have demonstrated the most realistic timeline and quality assurance of the work for the best price. A 9-month turnover time is a realistic turnover time due to the size of the project and input required from the DNO (Electricity District Network Operator – Electricity North West). Any shorter period of time causes concern with regard to the quality and content of the final reports.
23. EV Heroes is a local company which have been working in the borough for many years and worked with the Council during community and business engagement through the business engagement team. The company has agreed to numerous site visits with relevant officer and has offered to host member learning and study presentations following the completion of the work as an addition at no extra charge.
24. The three quotations for EV Heroes, the EVC Group and the Qarma group are attached in Appendix 2, 3, and 4, respectively.
25. Larger companies such as BP Pulse, Electric Blue, E-verve energy, PodPoint, and Rolec refused to quote due to the nature of the feasibility project, being that this is only a feasibility study and does not involve any fitting work at this stage.
26. Due to delays in receiving quotes and other work commitments all companies were contact in December asked if they wished to resubmit their quote following the delay. EV Heroes did wish to resubmit due to an expansion of their team internally which lowered their internal costs and thus lowered their quote. No companies were informed of the prices of timescales of the others.

Budget

27. It is proposed that this work be funded through the Climate Change Reserve.

Recommendations from SMT

28. SMT were in agreement to approve the recommendation to award contract to EV Heroes based on comparable work for a similar price at South Ribble and the quality of the quote provided for final decision at EMD.
29. Requested that focus of the report be focused on large scale EVCP installation at the Bengal St Depot and electric bike charging. While a lower focus be made on the residential and commercial assets of ShopMobility and Cotswold House.

Climate change and air quality

30. The work noted in this report has an overall positive impact on the Councils Carbon emissions and the wider Climate Emergency and sustainability targets of the Council.
31. In particular the report impacts on the following activities:
 - a. net carbon zero by 2030,
 - b. energy use / renewable energy sources
 - c. waste and the use of single use plastics,
 - d. sustainable forms of transport,**
 - e. air quality,
 - f. flooding risks,
 - g. green areas and biodiversity.
32. This work focuses on the feasibility and cost of installing EV Chargepoints on Council land throughout the borough. This work will allow for budget setting and for future installation plans to be made.

Equality and diversity

33. No impact, this work is looking to improve equality and diversity across the borough by addressing the impacts of climate change and promoting sustainability specifically in regard to social housing standards.

Risk

34. The risks associated with this work are concerning the failure to mitigate the impact of climate change locally, and the challenge to achieve the targets and ambitions of the Council to deliver on the net zero carbon emissions goal of 2030. Possible delays in delivering the actions relating to nature recovery and sustainability in the environment when working with external stakeholders.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

35. This work will be funded from the approved Climate Change reserve funds.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

36. The award must comply with the best value duty in the Local Government Act 1999 and with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Background documents

There are no background papers to this report

Appendices

Appendix A – EV Chargepoint Feasibility and Income Study

Appendix B – EV Heroes Quote

Appendix C – EVC Group Quote

Appendix D – Qarma Quote

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Following careful consideration and assessment of the contents of this report, I approve the recommendation(s) contained in Paragraph 2 of the report in accordance with my delegated power to make executive decisions.

Adrian Lowe

Councillor Adrian Lowe

Executive Member for Customer, Streetscene and Environment Dated 01/03/23

This decision will come into force and may be implemented five working days after its publication date, subject to being called in in accordance with the Council's Constitution.