

RUGBY BOROUGH COUNCIL

QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 10

COUNCIL – 14 JUNE 2023

QUESTION B

Councillor Sandison to ask the Leader of the Council and Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, Councillor Poole:

“Drivers using EV transport have expressed concerns regarding access to on street charging points because of petrol and diesel users blocking access by parking on such points, for example, in Barby Road.

They have been advised that WCC enforcement officers cannot keep these points clear because Traffic Regulation Orders are not designed to restrict on street parking at such points.

We have discussed with officers if EV Charging points can be considered in Rugby Borough Council surface car parks. Can the portfolio holder advise when will we be making progress on this matter and when can residents expect to see such installations installed?”

Councillor Poole, Leader of the Council and Regulation and Safety Portfolio Holder, to reply as follows:

“The Council recognises the importance of improving infrastructure to sustainable transport, including electric vehicle charging points across the Council’s estate.

In advance of installing any infrastructure, it is important that the council fully understands the unmet demand, recognising both the cost of installing EV infrastructure and the significant expansion in private, domestic and public provision in recent years.

Officers are currently investigating the feasibility of installing temporary charging points at Newbold Road car park and potentially Railway Terrace car park. In addition to providing charging points within the car parks, their deployment is flexible and would significantly increase our understanding of the unmet demand, therefore ensuring that future investment has the desired impact.

It was anticipated that the installation of the temporary charging points would be possible through year two of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), however initial investigatory works identified that this timescale would be unachievable. The proposal will now be considered as part of the year three UKSPF spending plan. Recommendations regarding the governance of the UKSPF year three spend will be considered by Cabinet on 26 June.

Furthermore, officers are currently working on a parking review which will give members options for the future of car parking in Rugby and that will include EV charging. It is due to be presented to members in the Autumn.”