

From Susan McGill

To Cllr Philip Whitehead – Leader and Cabinet Member for Economic Development, MCI and Communications

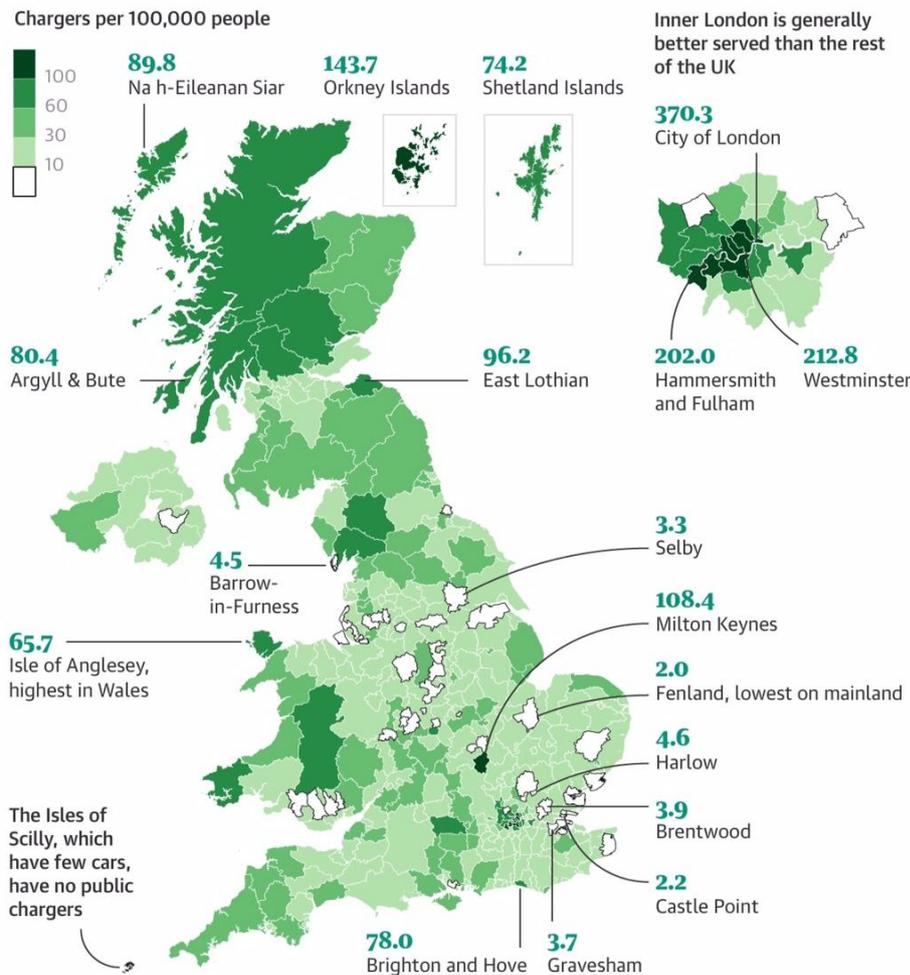
Item 6 – COVID-19 Update and Financial Update

Statement

Cabinet Agenda Item COVID-19 update para 73 “Environmental and Climate Change Considerations, p. 27. Wiltshire Council is reported to have fewer than 10 electric vehicle charging points per 100,000 people—see attached map.

46 local authorities have fewer than 10 electric car charge points per 100,000 people

<https://bit.ly/3kTrwvr>



Guardian graphic. Source: Department for Transport/Zap Map

Question 1

How does the council plan to increase this number, thereby enabling drivers who wish to move to electric vehicles before 2030 to make the transition without delay?

Response

The map supplied by the questioner identifies those authorities who have less than 10 electric vehicle charging points per 100,000 people. The map does not identify Wiltshire as one of those authorities.

The council needs to develop a strategy that establishes a coordinated approach to the provision of Low Emission Vehicle Infrastructure. Such a strategy will form part of the current review of the Local Transport Plan and will be guided by the Department for Transport (DfT) Decarbonisation Plan due by the end of 2020. This will set out an implementation plan of how to put the UK's entire transport system on a pathway to deliver the necessary greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Plans devised at a local level will have to rely significantly on the key steer given by the DfT's plan.

In the short term, the council has engaged the Energy Saving Trust (EST) and commercial providers to identify possible short-term opportunities to deliver infrastructure and EV provision for its internal fleet. The EST are also providing independent advice on the emerging fleet strategy and aligning outcomes with the council's commitment to becoming carbon neutral in the next 10 years. Beyond that, the council is exploring opportunities for government funding to provide additional electric charging infrastructure in a number of its car parks.

The viability of installing renewable energy at council car parks for charging electric vehicles is being investigated so as to establish the most cost effective way of delivery.