



# Successfully Implementing a Plug-in Electric Vehicle Infrastructure

## *A Technical Roadmap for Local Authorities and their Strategic Partners*

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[www.ietstandards.com/ev-report](http://www.ietstandards.com/ev-report)

### **What is your current position and what responsibilities/activities do you have in this area?**

Mark Daly, Sustainable Development Officer, Sheffield City Council. Responsible for low carbon transport and helping businesses set up compressed natural gas/electric vehicle (EV) operations.

Put in a bid for a 'Plugged in Yorkshire' PiP scheme with input from the report author, but didn't get this funding. In some ways glad not to have PiP given evolution of a revised bid and interest in the approach of targeting SMEs with subsidised EVs and infrastructure.

Applied for and won LSTF funding to implement EV project across South Yorkshire (encompassing Sheffield, Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster) to provide SMEs with reduced lease hire EV cars and vans plus reduced costs for installation of charging points in their businesses. There is a strong sustainability element to the LSTF bid, involving both environmental and transport council staff, who will help to set it up and get businesses on board.

Project summary:

- providing electric vehicle AND charging point at a subsidised rate
- targeting up to twenty SMEs, but not dictating where to locate charge points
- assisting private sector in locating the charge points
- focussing on four job creation corridors
- planning for at least one publicly accessible rapid charger in each of the four districts
- now putting specification together in order to put tender out

While not yet fully publicised, there has been considerable interest from local SMEs already.

### **1. What have your first impressions of the report been?**

Very useful! Written exactly for me as the target audience, i.e. responsible in the local authority, but not an expert, rather a project manager. Using the report to set up infrastructure and leasing scheme, for which the report is extremely helpful.

It's clearly set out, with very valuable information for local authorities considering supporting EVs. It will help avoid bad decisions around technology and location choices – here's how to/how not to, who to speak to, who to involve in decision making and in the project team. Makes common sense, but really helps to have it in black and white to refer back to.

Information around interoperability and looking at market subsets around potential EV use profile especially useful as this is an emerging field, so not one right answer. Report makes it clear that if you go in one direction, the pluses and minuses of that option are pointed out.

All sits very well with their view of establishing a low carbon journey, including car clubs, park and ride and public transport.

## **2. Is the technical content and presentation up to expectations in terms of being easy to use, locating the right information and putting it to use?**

Yes – will be referring back to document quite a lot, particularly in early stages of EV project. The report lines things up in a logical and systematic way, allowing user to factor in potential growth of scheme. It provides practical case studies for local authority project managers – there isn't one clear way at the moment – and the report sets out the options.

## **3. What are the key benefits of the report to you? What particular highlights of the report would you note?**

Key highlights including making you aware of the technical issues and the non-technical issues. Really useful practical information provided. Extremely useful for putting together a tender. Provides both a roadmap and a work of reference.

Case study stood out where things haven't worked so well, particularly around securing partner involvement – get to read about what hasn't worked so well, read up around the pitfalls. Also very useful to see coverage of different regional projects, including those selected from Europe, such as the ENEVATE project.

One particular case study on council internal fleet experience is very interesting, as many can be risk averse and reluctant to try – report discusses how to make EVs part of the mix. Already seeing demand for EVs from SMEs in his region, from people who have the right usage profile, keen to see project moving forwards.

## **4. Are there any areas where additional coverage would be useful?**

The technical section is really well laid out with good graphics such as charge points and configurations. No experience to say any gaps, and all looks good to me. Would be interested to see whether the report develops over time as technology and acceptance of EVs change.

## **5. What value would you put on the report?**

Local authorities would immediately balk at the price, as paying £750 for a report doesn't seem right at first.

But they are often in the scenario of putting out a tender for thousands of pounds of work for people to come in and do the work, to see the man hours. A plus point of this type of contract is that it will provide very localised information for the specific local authority area, e.g. points on map, footfall register, outline of technical issues.

However, certainly think that as a first stage, money would be better spent getting this report first, before going out to the market, in order to provide a more informed specification for consultants. The report provides information to get more out of EV project money.

It's definitely a 'Spend to Save' piece of work. This can be a difficult proposition to make in councils, but would save going and froing with consultants and save officer time, as the report helps identify the questions they need to be asking.

## **6. Would you be interested in taking the information further in a tailored workshop?**

Workshop of interest as it would be useful to pull the team together, including communications, legal, procurement, and others, from all the South Yorkshire councils involved, so that all on message and

know all the issues.

Need to be clear about responsibilities and knowledge as people won't want to take on anything else if someone is perceived to be doing this. But team input can assist the overall process, and those involved will be responsible and answerable to their own council members and chambers of commerce who supported the bid. Also need to work with a plug-in champion at a senior level – this type support can fizzle out if perceived as not being a vote winner or as too technical, or if there's fear of what happens if things start to go wrong.

Workshop would be of use to local authorities most interested in getting the specifics right for their area.

**For further information on the report or workshop, please contact IET Standards Ltd on 01438 765533.**