

## **READING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - 23 MARCH 2023**

#### **COUNCILLOR QUESTION NO. 1** in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Councillor McElroy to ask the Chair of Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:

#### **Incentivising Smaller and More Environmentally Friendly Cars**

Many of Reading's permit parking roads are narrow and hard to navigate with even a medium-sized car. Green Councillors would like the Council to consider updating the permit parking rules and charges to incentivise smaller cars and more environmentally friendly electric cars in permit parking zones. Will the Council investigate this and report back?

#### **REPLY by the Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:**

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

#### **REPLY by the Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport:**

I thank Councillor McElroy for his somewhat confused question.

There is little correlation between the size of a vehicle and 'environmentally friendly electric cars'. Low emission vehicles (electric or otherwise) are generally no smaller than those that use petrol or diesel combustion engines.

If Green councillors want a residents' parking scheme that discriminates in favour of 'smaller' cars I would invite them to set out the maximum length and width of vehicle that fits their definition.

If they want a scheme that also incentivises electric cars I would invite them to confirm that any incentives such as reductions in permits for electric or hybrid cars would require either a matching increase in permit charges for non-electric cars or a subsidy from the general council tax payer?

I would point out that it is possible to design a policy for a parking scheme that requires vehicles to be of a certain size (or smaller). However, this would require considerable extra staff to manage and monitor applications as I am advised that DVLA documentation and their database do not give dimensions of a car, only the weight.

Once the Greens clarify the basic parameters of their proposal I would ask traffic and parking services officers to examine the implications for our residents parking areas.

**ENDS**

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**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT, PLANNING & TRANSPORT COMMITTEE - 23 MARCH 2023**

**COUNCILLOR QUESTION NO. 2** in accordance with Standing Order No.36

Councillor McElroy to ask the Chair of Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:

**Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy**

Unfortunately, Reading's air is polluted impacting on all of our health. Green Councillors have been asking about an electric vehicle charging strategy since the lamppost chargers were installed in 2019 what is the delay in producing this strategy and when will it be published?

**REPLY by the Chair of the Strategic Environment, Planning & Transport Committee:**

I invite Councillor Page, the Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport to make the response on my behalf.

**REPLY by the Councillor Page, Lead Councillor for Climate Strategy and Transport:**

I thank Councillor McElroy for his question.

A draft Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy will be brought to the next SEPT Committee in June, with a recommendation to undertake a subsequent period of public consultation.

**ENDS**