

Report to CABINET

Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan

Portfolio Holder:

Councillor Chris Goodwin, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

Officer Contact: Emma Barton, Deputy Chief Executive – Place

Report Author: Peter Richards, Assistant Director for Planning, Transport & Housing Delivery

16th June 2025

Reason for Decision

To adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan.

Executive Summary

The Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan sets out the future direction for EVCI in Oldham. It ensures our plans will align with relevant national, regional and local policies, as well as Oldham's goals to decarbonise the borough by 2030.

The strategy outlines how Oldham Council is committed to making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents - a significant step in overcoming the barriers to EV ownership and helping to make the borough a more attractive place to live and work.

The Action Plan outlines a phased approach over the next three years of smaller work packages that lay the foundations for larger, more ambitious schemes. Each action works towards the overall vision of the strategy and will utilise grant funding where available, whilst acknowledging the role commercial chargepoint operators will also play.

The Oldham EVCI Strategy and Action Plan will support the borough's ambitions for growing the EVCI network across the borough, with key actions set out over the next three years to support this.

Recommendations

- 1) To have regard to the agreed comments of the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board on this item from the meeting on 12th June 2025;
- 2) To note that this item will be exempt from call-in, under Rule 14 of the Constitution, as the report has already been considered by the Place, Economic Growth and Environment Scrutiny Board;
- 3) To adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan for the borough;
- 4) To use the strategy and action plan to guide us towards our vision of making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents; and
- 5) To use currently available and future grant funding opportunities to improve the EVCI offer across Oldham.

Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan

1 Background

- 1.1 The need to develop an Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) strategy and action plan for Oldham was identified to assist us in establishing a clear vision, focus and action plan to support the roll-out of EVCI in the borough. This piece of work was commissioned in Autumn 2024.
- 1.2 The Strategy will guide the provision of a sustainable, inclusive and accessible network that aligns with national, regional and local policy directives including those set out in Oldham's Green New Deal Strategy and the Transport Strategy.
- 1.3 The Action Plan focuses on the necessary tasks over the next 3 years to progress from the current position towards the vision outlined, utilising available and future grant funding and drawing in additional private investment alongside this.
- 1.4 The current EVCI network in Oldham includes several publicly accessible and privately operated charging points, but gaps have been identified that require addressing to meet the increasing demand for electric vehicle charging.
- 1.5 The Vision Statement of the EVCI Strategy is as follows:

Within the next three years Oldham will develop an accessible EVCI network, providing residents access to public EVCI within a 10-minute walk.

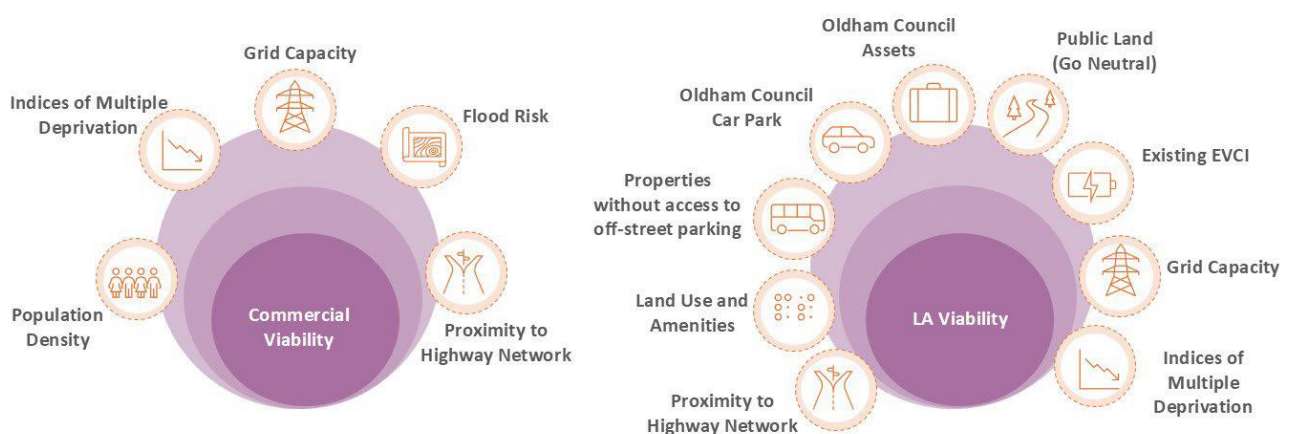
By embracing a mix of EV charging solutions, Oldham aims to create a sustainable and inclusive network that supports the Borough's journey towards carbon neutrality and a cleaner, greener future.

2 Development of the EVCI Strategy and Action Plan

- 2.1 The strategy has been developed in close collaboration with key stakeholders, including Transport for Greater Manchester (TfGM), Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), elected members and Council officers across highways, strategic transport, property and estates and policy.
- 2.2 The Strategy aims to fulfil the following primary objectives:
 - Set out a clear vision and focus for Oldham's EVCI network over the next 3 years, supported with a clear action plan.
 - Set out where EVCI is needed in Oldham and locations that are more commercially viable.
 - Produce criteria to prioritise locations where EVCI is not commercially viable.
 - Identify Council land that could be utilised for Oldham's EVCI network and could act as a potential revenue stream for the Council.
 - Set out which locations will utilise the current grant funding available to Oldham for installation of EVCI.

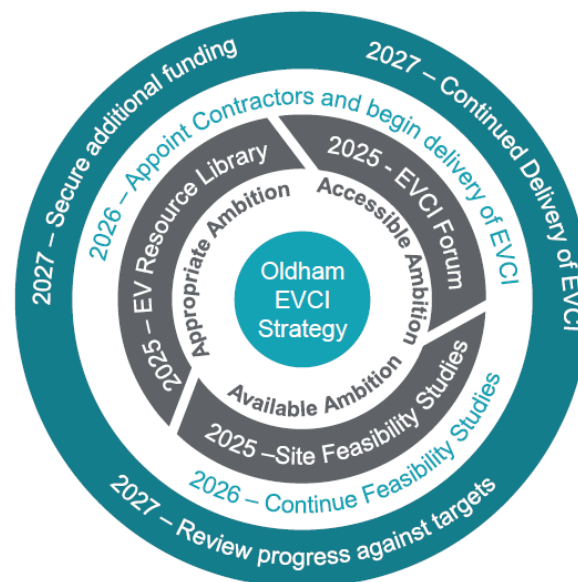
- Set out a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess Oldham’s progress in development of EVCI network over the next 3 years.

- 2.3 Following a review of national, regional and local policy, a comprehensive review of baseline conditions in Oldham for EVCI was undertaken to inform strategic planning and decision-making.
- 2.4 This review looked at existing data to visualise and assess existing EVCI infrastructure, reliance on on-street parking, local land use, amenities and local authority assets.
- 2.5 This identified gaps in the existing network and potential opportunities for enhancing EVCI coverage. These insights served as the basis for the viability assessments to identify areas with the highest potential for EVCI implementation. A methodology was developed to assess areas most suitable for commercial and local authority investment for EVCI rollout.
- 2.6 The commercial viability assessment will determine sites with the potential to attract private sector investment – those sites with high profitability and low risk.
- 2.7 The local authority viability assessment will determine sites where public sector investment is necessary to support infrastructure deployment in areas less attractive to private investors. The sites identified using the local authority viability assessment will provide an opportunity for Oldham Council to utilise grant funding available for the installation of publicly accessible EVCI. Having both these assessments in place ensures equitable access to charging infrastructure.
- 2.8 The following graphic shows the datasets assessed in each of the viability assessments. Each data set across both viability assessments was assigned a weighting relating to its importance, as agreed with stakeholders, in the overall assessment of sites.



- 2.9 Following the application of the viability assessments across all areas of the borough, ‘heatmaps’ were produced that highlight potential areas for EVCI development.

- 2.10 In terms of the Commercial Viability Heatmap, the highest-priority areas for EVCI development are concentrated in and around the central parts of Oldham as well as near A627 Ashton Road, A62 Manchester Road and neighbourhoods such as Chadderton, Busk, Coldhurst, Clarksfield, Sholver and Lees.
- 2.11 In terms of the Local Authority Viability Heatmap, the highest-priority areas for EVCI deployment and exhibiting significant potential included areas in and around central parts of Oldham as well as Higginshaw, Lees, Chadderton, Royton, Shaw, Delph, Uppermill and Greenfield.
- 2.12 Following this, council-owned land was identified to generate a prioritised list of potential sites for the rollout of EVCI in Oldham through both the commercial and local authority viability assessments (contained within Appendix 1). Council-owned land can serve as a potential revenue stream and could be offered to private operators, enabling revenue generation through lease agreements or partnerships. Alternatively, for sites with low commercial viability, the Council can develop EVCI on its own assets to ensure network coverage and support equitable access to charging facilities.
- 2.13 Considering the findings from the policy review, baseline context, local authority and commercial viability assessment, an action plan was developed which outlines work packages over the next three years that lay the foundations for larger more ambitious schemes and programmes. The graphic below illustrates how the actions are interconnected and can be progressed to further Oldham's ambitions for EVCI.



3 Engagement

3.1 Engagement has been undertaken with key internal and external partners and stakeholders in the preparation and development of the EVCI strategy and Action Plan, including:

- Oldham Council officers working in highways, strategic transport, policy, planning and property and estates
- Oldham Council Elected Members
- Transport for Greater Manchester
- Greater Manchester Combined Authority

3.2 Future EVCI investment will be focused in areas where there are high numbers of properties without potential for off-street parking (i.e. driveways). The sites would require that the footway be wide enough to ensure that any charging posts leave sufficient width to remain accessible for pedestrians and wheelchair users, and in locations where it is suitable to park and charge a vehicle (e.g. away from junctions and crossing places). Any sites will also require an assessment from Electricity North West to ensure there is adequate capacity for charging.

4 Options/Alternatives

4.1 Option 1:

- To adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan for the borough.
- To use the strategy and action plan to guide us towards our vision of making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents.
- To use currently available and future grant funding opportunities to improve the EVCI offer across Oldham.

4.2 Option 2:

- Do not adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan for the borough.
- Do not use the strategy and action plan to guide us towards our vision of making EVCI more accessible, appropriate and available for our residents.
- Do not use currently available and future grant funding opportunities to improve the EVCI offer across Oldham.

5 Preferred Option

5.1 Option 1 is the preferred option. This allows Oldham to move towards the vision outlined in the Strategy of an accessible EVCI network for our residents within the next three years, making an EV a real choice for our residents and creating a sustainable and inclusive network that supports Oldham's journey towards carbon neutrality and a cleaner, greener future.

6 Consultation

- 6.1 As above engagement and consultation has been undertaken with key internal and external partners and stakeholders in the preparation and development of the EVCI strategy and Action Plan.
- 6.2 In addition, the Cabinet Member for Don't Trash Oldham and the Deputy Cabinet Member for Bee Network Delivery have been involved in the development of the strategy and action plan and fully briefed on its content and implications.
- 6.3 The prioritised lists of potential sites for the rollout of EVCI in Oldham generated across both the commercial and local authority viability assessments have been the subject of detailed discussions between colleagues in property and estates and other officers.
- 6.4 A 'long list' of up to 40 sites which scored highly in the commercial and local authority viability assessments will be provided to bidders for the Green New Deal (GND) Delivery Partner who can then confirm via their bids how many of these sites they propose to develop with EVCI.
- 6.5 The current timescales for this procurement are going out to Market Engagement in April with the full tender published in June.
- 6.6 This procurement and subsequent delivery of EVCI has the potential to generate revenue for the Council by using Council-owned sites.

7 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications to adopt and publish the Oldham Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure (EVCI) Strategy and Action Plan. (Mohammed Hussain, Accountant)

8 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Further legal input will be required when specific Council-owned sites are identified for EVCI. (Alan Evans, Group Solicitor - Environment)

9 Equality Impact, including implications for Children and Young People

- 9.1 Yes – see Appendix 3

10 Key Decision

- 10.1 Yes

11 Key Decision Reference

- 11.1 RBO-01-25

12 Background Papers

12.1 None

13 Appendices

13.1 Appendix 1: EVCI Strategy – Oldham Council

Appendix 2: Oldham EVCI Strategy and Action Plan (Public Facing Document / Summary)

Appendix 3: EVCI Strategy & Action Plan Impact Assessment