Part A

Report to: **Cabinet**

Date of meeting: **Monday, 28 February 2022**

Report author: **Senior Democratic Services Officer**

Title: **Electric Vehicles Task Group - final report**

1.0   **Summary**

1.1   This report provides Cabinet with the report and recommendations of the
        Electric Vehicles task group. The full report is attached as Appendix 1.

1.2   Overview and Scrutiny will review this report at its meeting on 24 February 2022. An
        extract of the relevant section of the minutes is attached at Appendix 2 (to follow).

2.0   **Risks**

2.1   No direct risks to the council have been identified as a result of the task group's
        recommendations.

3.0   **Recommendations**

3.1   that Cabinet approves the task group's recommendations:

   1.   To extend and develop the communications around electric vehicles, including the
        development of an information hub, with a focus on preparing residents for the
        shift to electric vehicles and enabling access to clear information for users.

   2.   In order to help the council make the case for funding and to increase
        understanding of the interest in different areas, an online form should be developed
        to enable residents to make an expression of interest for a charging unit in their
        neighbourhood.

   3.   For the public Sustainability Forum to hold a session discussing electric vehicles with
        residents.

   4.   To continue to work collaboratively with Hertfordshire County Council to increase
        the charging infrastructure in Watford and to make the case to reinstate the use of
        lamp columns for that purpose as well as other public highway land.

   5.   To develop an Electric Vehicle Strategy for Watford.

6. To make further consideration about how the taxi fleet can be enabled to transition to more electric vehicles.

    Further information:
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    Report approved by: Carol Chen, Group Head of Democracy and Governance

4.0   Detailed proposal

4.1   At its meeting on 16 December 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish a task group to consider how Watford Borough Council could continue to enable the use of electric vehicles in the borough.

4.2   At that meeting, the membership of the task group was agreed. The following councillors were appointed:
- Councillor Simon Feldman (Chair)
- Councillor Mark Hofman
- Councillor Glen Saffery
- Councillor Jessica Stiff
- Councillor Dennis Watling

4.3   The task group met virtually on two occasions in January 2022. At the first meeting the task group received a presentation on electric vehicle charging infrastructure in the borough. At the second meeting, members reviewed documentation related to wider policies in Watford to enable electric vehicles and considered their conclusions and recommendations.

5.0   Implications

5.1   **Financial**

5.1.1   The Shared Director of Finance comments that it is expected that the majority of proposals set out within the report can be delivered within existing resources. If a need for further funding is identified this will be brought forward for approval through the normal budget setting process.

5.2   **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

5.2.1   The Group Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no specific legal implications in this report.

5.3   **Equalities, Human Rights and Data Protection**

5.3.1 There are no specific implications in this report.

5.4   **Staffing**

5.4.1 There are no staffing implications in this report.

5.5   **Accommodation**

5.5.1 There are no accommodation implications in this report.

5.6   **Community Safety/Crime and Disorder**

5.6.1 There are no community safety implications in this report.

5.7   **Sustainability**

5.7.1 Enabling the use of electric vehicles is an important part of the council's sustainability agenda and the recommendations are focused on this.

Appendices

Appendix 1 – Electric Vehicles Task Group Final Report
Appendix 2 – Extract from minutes of Overview and Scrutiny 24 February 2022 (to follow)

Background papers

There are no specific background papers for this report. All background information used during the task group's work is referenced in the final report.