

**County Council Meeting – 9 February 2023****Question to Councillor David Williams  
Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport****By Councillor Clements**

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**Question**

Can the Cabinet Member for Highways explain what if anything will be done about residents using sockets within their home to charge their electric vehicles which potentially means trailing cables across footpaths and highways?

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**Reply**

The County Council does not permit any cable to be placed across the public highway (even if covered or inserted into a gully); as it represents a health and safety hazard, and an impediment to the safe use of the highway by the visually and/or mobility impaired, or other affected user groups.

Under the Highways Act 1980, action may be taken to remove cables that are deemed unsuitable or unsafe. This method of on-street EV charging is therefore not considered a suitable approach for residents without off-street parking provision to charge their EV on-street.

We recognise the difficulties for people without off-street parking. To help with this, we are working alongside district and borough councils and the private sector to facilitate the development of a convenient and accessible network of charging points in Staffordshire.

This approach is set out in the Staffordshire County Council Public Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy that was approved last month by Cabinet and will be signed off by each of the Districts/Borough councils. This document sets the scene for why we need to act, explains the current picture, and outlines the role that SCC will play as a supporter and coordinator of efforts to promote greener travel across the county. The Strategy will assist in enabling EVs to be a viable option for residents, visitors and businesses whilst helping to support the aims of the Council's Strategic Plan, through contributing towards achieving carbon net zero and improving the quality of life for residents through a reduction of noise and air quality impacts.

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