



Memorandum

To: Minesh Patel, Finance Director

Your ref: Uber funding re Electric Charging Points

From: Annekatrin Dennemann, Principal Transport Planner, Spatial Planning

Our ref: As above

Date: 24th January 2022

APPROVAL TO ENTER INTO AN INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING AGREEMENT TO RECEIVE GRANT MONIES FROM UBER TO INSTALL ELECTRIC CHARGING POINTS ACROSS BRENT

Dear Minesh

This memorandum seeks your approval for Brent Council to enter into an Infrastructure Funding Agreement ('IFA') with Uber B.V., a private limited liability company incorporated under the laws of the Netherlands (registration number: 56317441), whose registered address is Meester Treublaan 7, 1097 DP Amsterdam, the Netherlands ('Uber') to receive a grant of up to a maximum of £1.8m for the procurement, installation, operation and maintenance of additional on-street electric vehicle charging points in various locations within Brent.

A summary of the background of the Grant Agreement is outlined below.

1.0 Recommendations

- (a) That, for the purposes of Financial Regulation 9.1.1 in Part 2 of the Constitution, you approve Brent Council's entry into the IFA.

2.0 Background to the IFA

- 2.1 Brent experiences a range of transport and related challenges including long-standing issues around congestion, air quality and road safety, as well as growing problems around public health inequalities and climate change. A key priority for the Council is to enable greener and more active and sustainable travel choices, with a particular emphasis on providing for an increase in journeys by walking, cycling and public transport whilst reducing the number of journeys made by private vehicles – particularly the most polluting ones. Facilitating the take-up of zero/low-emission vehicles, particularly through the expansion of infrastructure for electric vehicles to provide more charging opportunities and address concerns about range, is central to achieving this.
- 2.2 In partnership with TfL, London Councils, charge point manufacturers/ operators and developers, the Council has been working to implement an electric vehicle charge point ("EVCP") infrastructure across the borough in recent years. However, as the number

of residents using/purchasing electric vehicles increases, there is a growing need to provide more charge points and supporting infrastructure, at the same time as minimising the impact on the ever increasing pressure for parking in the borough.

- 2.3 In 2019, partly in response to tightened global environmental and vehicle emissions standards, the US mobility as a service/ride hailing company, Uber, launched a Clean Air Plan. As part of the plan, Uber is aiming to transition 45,000 vehicles in its UK fleet to fully electric by 2025, including every vehicle operating in London on the Uber App.
- 2.4 In early 2021, the Council, along with the London Boroughs of Newham, Redbridge and Tower Hamlets, was approached by Uber, with a view to the company providing funding towards the installation of new on-street electric vehicle charging points across the four boroughs where the most Uber drivers live.
- 2.5 Despite the existence of an extensive EVCP network across London, there is a growing need for additional charging facilities, including within Brent, particularly for those residents who do not have access to private, off-street parking. There is also a growing demand for new on-street charging infrastructure for the many people who are employed in the taxi and private hire trades and who currently use, or are planning to transition to, an electric vehicle, but have no convenient place to charge it.
- 2.6 Following the completion of a survey among its drivers to understand their current driving habits and ascertain their future EV needs, Uber is prepared to invest circa £5m to fund upwards of 300 new on-street charging points across Brent, Newham and Redbridge – principally for use by its drivers, but also accessible to the wider public. A requirement for up to 280 new on-street charge points has been identified at around 140 locations in Brent, with funding to a maximum of £1.8m being made available towards the cost of their purchase, installation, operation and maintenance.

3.0 IFA Terms and Conditions

The proposed terms and conditions of the grant have been reviewed by Officers (including Officers within the Spatial Planning team and Legal Services) and it is considered that the IFA is in a form that is acceptable for Brent Council to enter into and having regard to the matters set out in section 2.0 above.

4.0 The Benefits of the IFA and partnership with Uber

The Grant from Uber pursuant to the IFA will be used to fund up to 50% of the cost of the charging infrastructure, to a maximum of £6,500 per charge point. The Council will undertake a public procurement exercise to appoint a charge point operator(s) (CPO(s)) who will be required to fund the remaining costs. The CPO(s) will also be liable for all operational and maintenance costs over the duration of the concession contract, which is expected to be in place for 10 years.

5.0 Legal Implications

Financial Regulation 9.1.1 in Part 2 of the Constitution specifies in relation to external arrangements for Accountable Body and Partnership Arrangements the following:

The Director of Finance must be informed and written approval from the Director of Finance obtained before entering into any proposed accountable body or partnership arrangements

WAY FORWARD

Please confirm in writing in the approval box below whether or not:

- (a) you approve entry into the IFA, as set out in Recommendation 1.0(a).

If you have any questions or would like further information to be provided, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely
Annekatriin Dennemann
Principal Transport Planner, Spatial Planning

I do approve entry into the Grant Agreement as set out in Recommendation 1.0(a).

Signed:

Print Name: Minesh Patel
Position: Finance Director
Date: