

Examination of the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council Note Requested by the Inspector

**Local Plan Examination Note for
Inspector in response to Action Point 23
regarding Policy EN21 and Electric
Charging Vehicle Points**

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 During the Hearing Sessions on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan, the Inspector asked the Council to prepare a number of Notes on “Action Points”, essentially to clarify its position on certain matters that were discussed.
- 1.2 This Note relates to Action Point 23 relating to Policy EN 21: Air Quality. It follows the hearing session for Matter 15, Issue 2 – Environmental Protection on Thursday 14th July, at which the Inspector asked for clarity in respect of the existing published Guidance Note relating to Electric Charging Vehicle (ECV) points in new developments.

2.0 The Guidance Note

- 2.1 As referred to within the Hearing Session itself, the Council has previously produced and published a [Guidance Note of Applicants regarding Electric Vehicle Charging Points for New Development \(October 2020\)](#). In addition, this specifically referred to within the Submission Local Plan itself by way of a cross reference (shown as an asterisk*) at the end of paragraph 4 of Policy EN 21. The link takes the user directly to the current version of the Guidance Note. At the Hearing Session, the Inspector referred to his need to give consideration to whether and/or how specific reference should/could be made to Table 1 from the Guidance Note with Policy EN 21 itself, in order to avoid a compliance requirement with a non-development plan document within the policy itself. The Council awaits formal consideration on this from the Inspector in due course.
- 2.2 In addition, it should be noted that the Council is currently undertaking a review of this Guidance Note with a view to updating it in the short term so that it is fully up to date in regard to national policy and the recent updates to the Building Regulations. The Council will update the Inspector as and when an updated version of the Guidance Note is available.

3.0 Summary and Conclusion

- 3.1 During the Hearing Sessions on the Tunbridge Wells Borough Local Plan, the Inspector asked for clarity in respect of the existing published Guidance Note relating to Electric Charging Vehicle (ECV) points in new developments. This Action Point Note sets out the link to access the current Guidance Note.