Planning Factsheet – National EV Policy

McDonald's, Chirk Retail Park, Wrexham, LL14 5AZ



Electric vehicle ownership is at an early stage in its genesis. Ownership rates are increasing as various policy and legislator drivers take effect, chief amongst them net zero targets and the impending ban on the sale of new fossil fuel cars.

The sector remains a novel one for the planning system with some local authorities starting their policy journeys with limited EV strategies which are focussed on Council-owned land and Council vehicle fleets. Nationally, some local planning authorities have started to include policies requiring some degree of EV charging, often provided as part of wider schemes, in development proposals.

This is insufficient to deliver the EV charging infrastructure which the Government is clear is needed to support economic growth, meet decarbonisation challenges and promote sustainable transport.

Electric vehicle (EV) uptake in Wales is growing, supported by national decarbonisation goals and the 2030 ban on new petrol and diesel vehicles. The Welsh Government has committed to ensuring that all users of electric cars and vans can access reliable public charging infrastructure when and where they need it. This factsheet outlines the key national and devolved policy documents that are **material considerations** for planning applications involving **standalone public EV charging infrastructure**.

The following are the key national policy documents which are material considerations in this case, especially if the local plan has no policies on standalone EV charging infrastructure development and/or none of these documents feature in the local plan evidence base.

Key Policy Documents and Strategies

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy for Wales – March 2021

- Sets a vision that by **2025**, all EV users in Wales can confidently access charging infrastructure.
- Emphasizes **total provision**, **quality experience**, **sustainability**, and **localised benefits**.
- Recognises the enabling role of planning, land use policy, and public-private partnerships.
- Based on the **sustainable transport hierarchy**, supporting modal shift and decarbonisation.

https://www.gov.wales/electric-vehicle-charging-strategy-wales
https://www.gov.wales/electric-vehicle-charging-strategy-wales-action-plan-html

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2. Llwybr Newydd – Wales Transport Strategy 2021

- Framework for transport decarbonisation in Wales.
- Supports EV infrastructure as part of a **multi-modal, low-carbon transport system**.
- Aligns with broader goals of **place-making**, **health**, and **climate resilience**.

Llwybr Newydd: the Wales transport strategy 2021 | GOV.WALES

3. Future Wales: The National Plan 2040

- Statutory national development framework for Wales.
- Supports **low-carbon infrastructure** and **sustainable transport**.
- Must be read alongside **Planning Policy Wales (PPW)**.

Future Wales 2040

4. Planning Policy Wales (Edition 11)

- Requires planning decisions to support the transition to **ultra-low emission vehicles**.
- Encourages provision of **public EV charging infrastructure** in accessible locations.
- Emphasizes **placemaking**, **accessibility**, and **climate action**.

Planning policy Wales | GOV.WALES

5. Welsh National Standards for EV Infrastructure – 2023

- Provides **technical and operational guidance** for public EV charging infrastructure.
- Covers site selection, accessibility, energy connections, and futureproofing.
- Intended for use by **local authorities, developers, and delivery partners**.

National Standards PDF

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6. UK-Wide Policy Context (Relevant to Wales)

- **UK Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (2022)**: Target of 300,000 public chargers by 2030.
- **Ofgem Smart Charging Action Plan (2023)**: Supports grid integration and cost-effective rollout.
- **Powering Up Britain (2023)**: Emphasises EV infrastructure as a national economic priority.
- These documents are **material considerations** where Welsh policy is silent or complementary.

Planning Implications

- Standalone public EV charging proposals are **strongly supported** by both Welsh and UK policy.
- Local Development Plans must align with **Future Wales**, **PPW**, and the **EV Strategy**.
- Planning authorities are expected to **facilitate private sector delivery** and ensure equitable access.
- Proposals that contribute to **net zero**, **rural access**, and **modal shift** carry significant weight.