

ChargeUK Policy Committee

Date: Tuesday 21 May, 11am

Topic: Labour Party relationships

Attendees: Vicky Read, Rosanna Turnham, Jarrod Birch, Fred Leballois, Laura Hardy, Eve Ritchie, Lamech Solomon, Antoine Picron, James McKemey, Rolle Nieminen, Marie-France Vanheel, Richard Stobart, Oli Freeling-Wilkinson, Richard Gibson, Sam Abbott, Natasha Mahmoudian, Gary Peters, Dan Simpson, Harry Methley, Krisha Indrakumar

Discussion

Workstream Update

1. DS flagged the competition policy and updated on workstreams. Speaking on deployment, it was noted that the ChargeUK Deployment Group met yesterday. The Secretariat and CEO also met with No 10 Delivery Unit last week – a readout of the meeting, and the DCUSA Working Group meeting, was included in the newsletter.
2. It was noted that ChargeUK have a meeting with SSEN this week with a readout to be included in the newsletter this Friday.
3. Updating on CX, it was noted that the Secretariat represented ChargeUK at the DCP 420 Working Group last week. It was noted at the meeting that they are preparing a consultation document on amendments to standing charges – options will either include removing EV charging from final demand or an option is for there to be additional capacity for EV charging.
4. Updating on Public Investment, it was noted that the On-Street Working Group met last week and heard from OZEV.
5. Updating on RCF, it was noted that ChargeUK will be meeting with the Project Rapid team later today. A readout will be included in this week's newsletter. ChargeUK will also be meeting with OZEV to discuss PCP regs on Friday.
6. Members were made aware of the Dispatches scheduled for Thursday – the Comms Committee will be finalising lines for this at the meeting on Thursday.
7. Members requested that moving forward, a comprehensive readout of all meetings are included in all future correspondence.

Labour Party Engagement

8. DS noted that engagement with both the Government and Labour will be determined by the election cycle.
9. DS ran through the context of the Labour Party and their possible manifesto commitments. It was noted that the Party is currently in access talks and preparing for their first 100 days plan. It was noted that within Labour's transport brief, EV charging is not a high priority.
10. DS spoke through Labour's current policy, including the Party's ambition for a green future.
11. DS spoke through what is on and off the table for Labour – it was noted that on the radar for Labour is: RTFO, 2035 phase out, planning regs, public investment, industrial strategy as a result of their priorities relating to cost to consumers, geographic distribution and a just transition for workers. On the other hand, consumer regs, grid connections, incentivising transition are currently not on the radar.
12. DS noted that there a number of possible scenarios for a Labour Government of which this includes deliberating the future of RCF, a more directive approach to LAs, inclusion of electricity within RTFO, and "quick wins" on planning and highways.

13. RT spoke on Bill Esterson and his role as Shadow Minister (Roads) and queried whether there is a possible hook with this.
14. DS noted that on grid, Labour are not as up to date with it. They are aware that there are planning issues but are not as up to date with the most recent issues/consultations etc.
15. VR asked about the election and the messaging around the phase out date.
16. NM suggested that we need to have a wider conversation re. the phase out date. It was noted that we should push for the commitment.
17. NM questioned whether HGV is on their radar as a green paper has already been drafted.
18. VR spoke on ChargeUK's manifesto, noting that we are updating from last week's discussion and discussing plans for a launch.
19. LH questioned whether we are permitted to access further readouts and summaries from the meetings with OZEV. It was noted that so far, we have been prevented from sharing papers per OZEV's request. Moving forward, we hope this changes and that members are able to receive access to the documents where appropriate.

Actions

- Secretariat to share wider readouts from the meetings with Government.