

ChargeUK Policy Committee

Date: Tuesday 28 May, 11am

Topic: General election strategy

Attendees: Vicky Read, Rosanna Turnham, Jarrod Birch, Laura Hardy, Lamech Solomon, Antoine Picron, James McKemey, Richard Stobart, Natasha Mahmoudian, Brad Hunt, Wendy Gallagher, Dan Simpson, Harry Methley, Connor Whyton

Discussion

Workstream Update

1. HM flagged the competition policy, and DS updated on workstreams. He updated that he and VR had met with OZEV to discuss Project Rapid. OZEV will be focusing on defining metrics for long journeys, and looking to get further information on whether the RCF fund should be available for use on A-roads. ChargeUK also met OZEV for an update on PCP regulations. Following their failure to provide any material on the topic for ChargeUK members, OZEV were told ChargeUK would not engage with them until they provide a draft, which they have promised to do so. DS also updated on the On-Street Group, and attendees agreed on the importance of collating relevant data asked for by government.

General Election Update

2. DS updated on actions taken so far with regards to the election. He shared that the ChargeUK manifesto had been published on Thursday afternoon, which had been welcomed by Labour's transport advisor.
3. DS updated on policy areas that could be key for a future government. He added that positions in these areas needed to be flesh out, and that a public affairs plan to deploy this material following the election would be curated.
4. On areas that are covered in the ChargeUK manifesto, DS noted a need to get specific areas fully locked down in preparation for the election. This included the plan for drivers – and other policy areas that are currently in progress, such as on the electricity wholesale market. Linked to this, the need to capture positions on standing charges and signage was mentioned.
5. The need to cover areas that Labour have spoken, but were not covered in the ChargeUK manifesto, was mentioned. DS named the 2030 target, the future of the RCF (which Labour are sceptical about), and Labour's potential support for local authority targets on charge point numbers. He added that when Labour publishes their manifesto, there may be new points that we need to cover.
6. Lastly, policy positions that will be taken in future were noted, including positions on accessibility.
7. NM added that truck policy is a live piece of work, and that ChargeUK should be taking a position on this in the case that a Labour government doesn't want to push forward. She also noted that ChargeUK was becoming the voice of the transition, not just on charging. This translates to a need to comment on benefit in kind, which could have an impact on the industry and the second-hand EV market.
8. VR stressed the importance of engaging with individual members on issues where there is not a consensus ChargeUK view. On incentives, she added that a more tailored approach is needed across each one. VR also mentioned LEVI, and the need to get an understanding from OZEV on how this could change under a new government.
9. JMK asked about a potential Labour government's stance on grants and incentives. DS noted the lack of money available, and that the party may be more open to public sector procurements for example – as it is funded through an existing budget rather than through a set of tax changes. He added that there is no harm in supporting incentives, but the fact it was a tough ask in the current climate needed to be recognised. VR suggested the need to discuss how best to voice support for incentives, and which ones to support.

10. RS highlighted a huge amount of money was being spent on LEVI, and that support for this needs to be explicit.
11. NM highlighted the fleet mandate progressing in Europe, and that the combination of ZEV and BIK means the argument that there is no consumer support is not true. RT suggested that it would make sense to hold a one-off session on this topic.
12. DS noted that the policy sessions over the election campaign will be divided up to discuss different policy areas across the period.

AOB

13. VR added that combatting the notion that charging is falling behind is very important alongside the general election. This piece of work being discussed in the Communication Committee, but the group will be kept updated.

Actions

- Secretariat to begin solidifying policy positions, in advance of a public affairs plan to distribute these positions.