

## **Expansion of the Electric Bike Hire Scheme**

Report of the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

***Please note that the following recommendations are subject to consideration and determination by the Committee before taking effect.***

**Recommendation: It is recommended that:**

- (a) the sites proposed for electric bike infrastructure are approved, as detailed in this report and Appendices, at an estimated cost of £99,615;**
- (b) the Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment be given delegated authority to agree the exact location for the installation of the electric bike site in consultation with the Local Member.**

### **1. Background**

In October 2016, the UK's first on-street city electric bike hire scheme was launched in Exeter. The Co-bikes scheme currently offers twenty bikes that can be hired and returned to any of the six docks in the city. The existing docks are located at County Hall, the Civic Centre, Exeter St David's and Exeter Central rail stations, and the University of Exeter (Main Campus and St Luke's).

Following this successful trial, there are now more than 700 members and almost 2,000 trips have been registered (up to end February 2018). However, an expanded network would enable membership and utilisation to grow, with more bicycles and locations available to cater for the demand.

In October 2017, Devon County Council was successful in securing funding for the east of Exeter from the National Productivity Investment Fund. A portion of this funding was identified to increase the existing infrastructure and bikes available. In May 2018, Exeter HATOC approved 10 new sites within the city, with an additional 55 bicycles available to hire.

### **2. Proposal**

The expansion of the eBike network will be important to ensure that user numbers continue to rise by offering more opportunities to travel between key locations on an increased number of bikes. Given the demand for bicycles at particular locations in the city, it is also proposed to extend some existing locations to allow for more bikes to use the docks.

The locations proposed will not all require a docked, charging station with the expanded scheme allowing for the integration of 'dockless' sites. These sites will be designated locations for bikes to be picked up/dropped off but require less infrastructure and are therefore a lower cost to implement due to reduced installation costs and no need for electrical connections and groundworks.

This proposal covers extension of the network within East Devon. The following locations have been identified:

- Cranbrook;
- Science Park; and
- Old Park Farm housing development.

There is the intention to include a further dock at the Science Park (Park and Change site) which will seek approval as part of the wider Park and Change scheme.

The network will also be expanding in Exeter, with infrastructure installed or extended at fourteen locations (see Appendix I). These sites were approved at the Exeter HATOC meeting on 18 May 2018.

The expansion of the network not only increases choice of destinations and encourages short to medium-distance car journeys to be made by bicycle, it also makes end-to-end journeys using other modes of transport that much easier.

The proposal would see a mix of docked and dockless sites with an additional 19 bicycles available for hire (in addition to the 55 new bikes in the Exeter area). Information on the dock type at each location is included in Appendix II.

### **3. Financial Considerations**

The estimated cost to deliver new or extended infrastructure at the sites listed is £99,615. Funding has been secured through two key external sources to support the expansion of the network:

- The National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) – £67,615
- S106 from Old Park Farm - £32,000

### **4. Environmental Impact Considerations**

The expansion of the cycle hire scheme will create a wider network that links transport interchanges with key employment and residential areas. The expanded network will encourage individuals to cycle, therefore minimising car-borne carbon emissions and air pollution.

### **5. Equality Considerations**

No new policies are being recommended in this report and no adverse impacts on any particular group are expected. Therefore, an Equality Impact and Needs Assessment is not considered necessary.

An Equality Assessment was undertaken as part of the NPIF funding application which included the expansion to the electric bike scheme.

### **6. Legal Considerations**

The lawful implications of the proposals have been considered and taken into account in the preparation of the report. There are no specific legal considerations associated with this scheme.

## 7. Risk Management Considerations

There are risks associated with the delivery of infrastructure, for example a suitable site that can be identified within land ownership and with availability to an electrical supply (where a docked station is being provided). The risks at each site have been identified and suitably mitigated, and therefore it is unlikely that the risks are realised.

## 8. Public Health Impact

The scheme will have a positive public health impact by encouraging increased cycling throughout the city. Active travel is associated with physical and mental health benefits.

## 9. Reasons for Recommendations

External funding has been secured to extend the electric bike network (NPIF) which is further complemented by the use of s106 at key housing developments in the city. The scheme will provide a better connected and more attractive network that will boost the number of individuals joining the scheme and cycling in the city.

Dave Black  
Head of Planning, Transportation and Environment

### Electoral Division: Broadclyst

Local Government Act 1972: List of Background Papers

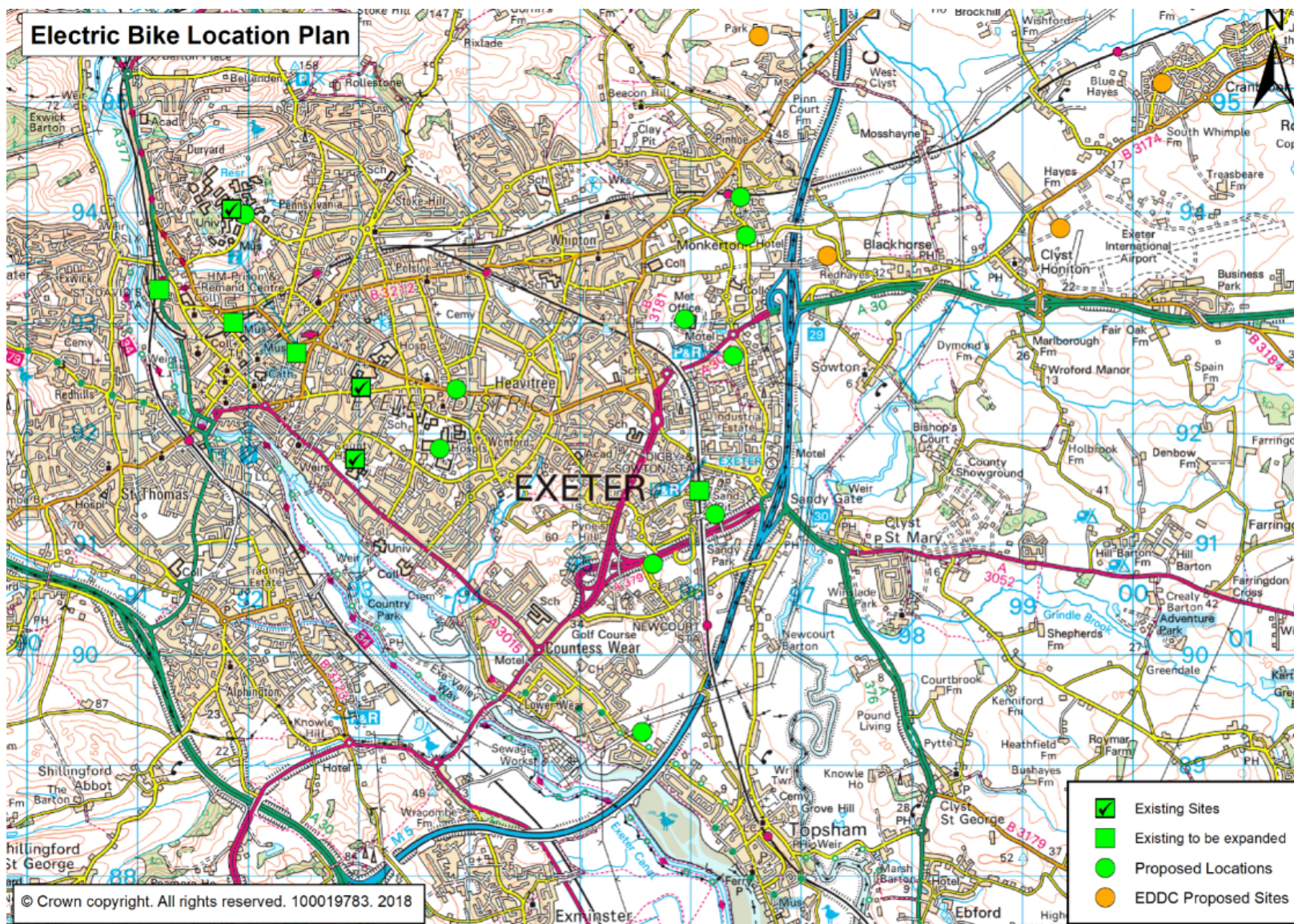
Contact for enquiries: Emma Hext

Room No. Lucombe House, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QD

Tel No: 01392 383000

Background Paper	Date	File Reference
Nil		

eh200618edh  
sc/cr/Expansion of the Electric Bike Hire Scheme  
02 030718



**Appendix II  
To PTE/18/26**

**List of Sites**

<b>Site</b>	<b>Funding source</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Expected Timescale</b>
Science Park	NPIF	Dockless	£ 20,000	2018/19
Cranbrook	NPIF	Docked	£ 47,615	2018/19
Old Park Farm	S106	Docked	£ 32,000	2019/20

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 99,615</b>
--------------	-----------------