

Dear Colleagues

Ashford leads the way with green initiative

The business community in Ashford is leading the way in reducing the borough's carbon footprint by taking part in the Kent REVS up for Cleaner Air scheme.

Over the past year, 130 businesses have taken part in the trial scheme across Kent and this week we received confirmation that Ashford has the highest amount of businesses using and having used the scheme in the county, with nearly a quarter of the overall businesses being from our borough.

What is REVS? Kent County Council has been allocated £1.5 million of funding by Highways England to trial an innovative scheme encouraging businesses in Kent to use electric vans. The aim of the project is to demonstrate to organisations the benefits of owning and running an electric vehicle and to contribute to the aim of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 across Kent.

Reducing carbon emissions and air pollution, as well as saving money on fuel and maintenance are just some of the benefits of using electric vehicles.

There are 39 vans currently available to trial for free, for up to 2 months. The scheme is available to businesses, charities and public sector organisations in Kent and Medway who wish to try before they buy. Over 20 businesses in Kent have already switched or committed to a future purchase or lease of an Electric Vehicle.

Since the scheme launched, 27 businesses from the Ashford borough have taken part, and three more are currently part of the scheme. These businesses have included contractors, the food and drink industry, manufacturers and social organisations. This is the highest number from any local authority area in Kent.

The scheme ends in January 2023, so if you are interested in applying to take part in the trial you must do so before November 2022. You can learn more about the scheme or find out how to register by contacting revs@csltd.org.uk or take a look at their website <https://lowcarbonkent.com/kent-revs-van-trial/>

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Executive Leader - Ashford Borough Council

Distribution: All Elected Members of the Authority, KCC Divisional members, CEO, Directors & Heads of Service, Damian Green MP

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