

Report to Partnership Meeting of 20 April 2018

RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY

Electric Vehicle Strategy

Purpose of Report

To introduce the executive summary of the draft HITRANS Electric Vehicle Strategy, including a proposed Action Plan for which an annual budget line within HITRANS Research and Delivery Plan has been identified to help support its implementation.

Background

Urban Foresight were appointed by HITRANS to support the development of an Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan for the HITRANS area in September 2017 that would address the following areas;

- Consider current and proposed charging regimes with the HITRANS area and elsewhere to help identify best practice for the area going forward.
- Review existing operation and maintenance of EV charging network and consider how this is best provided for across the different local authorities in the HITRANS area.
- Review existing best practice for EV provision in the development planning framework and guidelines for new development.
- Develop a plan for the promotion and marketing of EV's within the region
- Consider opportunities for encouraging the roll out of EV vehicles in the following areas; Car Clubs, local taxis, local bus services, local authority / private pool fleets, etc
- Consider merit in establishing an Electric Vehicle forum where issues and opportunities relating to the development of the network and infrastructure can be raised / discussed
- Develop priority programme for developing the charging network that considers future development of EV vehicle and charging technology and EV usage

HITRANS Electric Vehicle Strategy

Members were consulted on a copy of the draft Strategy in advance of the last Partnership Meeting and the Strategy and Action Plan has been updated to reflect comments received following a presentation of the main findings at the Partnership Meeting.

A copy of the Executive Summary and proposed Action Plan is attached as an appendix to this report. A series of actions have been identified across four key themes that are essential components to achieving the transformation to a low carbon transport system. These themes are as follows; Regional Planning, Modal Integration, Tourism and Renewable Energy. In addition,

HITRANS 2018 /2019 Business Plan identifies a budget of £30,000 to help support HITRANS and its partners in implementing the Action Plan.

Among the early actions identified is the creation of a HITRANS Electric Vehicle Stakeholder Group. This group would seek to perform a similar role as that of the various Stakeholder groups which HITRANS currently administers for other modes such as rail and ferry. Following adoption of the Electric Vehicle Strategy, the intention would be to circulate an invitation and proposed terms of reference to all relevant organisations and businesses that may be interested in participating in such a group.

Next Steps / Recommendation

Members are invited to;

1. Approve on the adoption of the Electric Vehicle Strategy and Action Plan.
2. Approve a budget line of £30,000 in the 2018/2019 HITRANS Research and Delivery Plan to help support the implementation of the priorities set out in the Strategy Action Plan
3. Consider specific projects or actions for HITRANS Officers to consider in 2018/19.

RTS Delivery

Impact - Positive

Comment – A Low Carbon / EV Strategy is been identified in the draft Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan

Policy

Impact - Positive

Comment – This work has helped develop the local and regional policy framework for Electric Vehicles in the HITRANS area.

Financial

Impact –

Budget line and value – A budget of £30,000 has been identified in 2018 / 2019 Business Plan to help support the delivery of the EV Strategy Action Plan.

Equality

Impact – Positive

Comment –

Report by: Neil MacRae

Designation: Partnership Manager, HITRANS

Date: 10th April 2018

HITRANS Electric Vehicle Strategy Executive Summary & Action Plan

Executive Summary

The strategy sets out a vision that the HITRANS region will be at the forefront of achieving national commitments for low emission transport, delivering social, economic and environmental benefits to communities across the region. It will become an exemplar for how a transition to a low carbon transport system can be achieved in rural communities.

The region has already made good progress towards this vision. The early use of electric buses, hybrid ferries and electric car club vehicles has demonstrated how low emission transport can provide valuable solutions for both residents and visitors to the region. However, to realise the vision will require a bold transformation that reflects the diverse range of social, economic and geographical factors that exist across the region.

This strategy draws upon consultation with a wide range of regional stakeholders to identify the key challenges facing the region and the opportunities that exist to further increase the adoption of electric vehicles. A series of actions have been identified across four key themes that are essential components to achieving the transformation to a low carbon transport system. These themes and actions are summarised below.

Action Plan

Regional Planning

- Increase Levels of EVs in Public Sector Fleets
- Increase the Resilience of the Rural Rapid Charging Network
- Provide Rapid EV Charging Clusters
- Targeted Expansion of the Strategic Rapid Charging Network
- Capture the Costs of Regional Maintenance and Operation of Charging Infrastructure
- Continue to Develop Regional Maintenance Skills
- Introduce a Consistent Payment Mechanism for Charging within the Region
- Introduce Developer Requirements to Provide Charging Infrastructure
- Develop and Publish Regional Best Practice in EV Mobility
- Maximise Existing Communication, Education and Outreach Channels
- Subsidise EV Accreditation for Mechanics
- Explore the Potential for Early Use of Electric Aircraft in the Region
- Establish a Regional EV Stakeholder Group

Modal Integration

- Continue to Invest in EV Charging Facilities at Regional Airports
- Support Car Club Vehicles at Regional Entry Points
- Support the Establishment of Community Car Clubs
- Make it Easy to Book EV Connections to / from Regional Entry Points
- Work with Taxi Operators to Introduce Electric Taxis in Inverness and Other Key Regional Centres
- Work with Bus Operators to Identify Routes Appropriate for Electric Buses
- Develop Regional Mobility as a Service (MaaS) App

- Engage with Regional Freight Organisations
- Invest in eBike Charging Facilities
- Work with Ferry Operators to Provide Appropriate Charging Infrastructure

Tourism

- Work with Visit Scotland to Develop a Zero Emission Tourism Offering
- Work with Ferry Operators to Increase EV Use and Reduce Pressures on Transport Network
- Work with Hoteliers and Tourist Sites to Encourage Provision of EV Infrastructure
- Encourage Investment in Smart Tourism Offering

Renewable Energy

- Investigate Off-Grid and Battery Backed Charging Solutions
- Trial Smart Charging
- Coordinate Planning of the Electricity Network
- Engage SSE Early in Planning Charging Infrastructure