

Item:

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## **Report to Partnership Board Meeting 21 April 2023**

### **RESEARCH AND STRATEGY DELIVERY**

#### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Shared Service**

#### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update Members on regional activity by a project management shared service under the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund (EVIF). The shared service covers Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Moray Council, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council.

#### **OVERVIEW**

In January 2022 Transport Scotland announced a restructure of their electric vehicle infrastructure funding model. Local Authorities are now required to leverage in private sector funding to enable delivery of infrastructure at the pace and scale required to meet demand and encourage further car users to switch to EV's to support the wider climate change objectives, collaborating regionally where possible.

The new proposed structure will allow Local Authorities to access £30 million worth of funding and aims to leverage in a further £30 million of private sector investment, bringing the total investment for Scotland to £60 million. The funding is aimed at identifying market failures to support local authorities in enabling a Just Transition.

#### **UPDATE**

The EVI shared service continues to progress well, with the MOA currently being signed and learnings starting to materialise from consultancy studies.

Moray Council's grant application and EVIF strategy is complete and they are proposing a hub and spoke approach to charger installations, with the commercially viable hubs supporting the less profitable 'spoke' locations in rural and remote areas. They seek a concession agreement with a private investor.

This compliments the requirements and aims of the regional Pathfinder project proposed by Highland, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils, and HITRANS will continue to represent Moray's interests in that partnership. The initial Pathfinder PIN results indicate good interest from and viable partnerships with private investors. One round of in depth PIN interviews have been held, with learnings due to shape procurement ideas and then be put to market for comments in a second round of interviews.

Evaluation frameworks by Urban Foresight to aid strategic EV infrastructure decisions in the Comhairle, Orkney & Shetland Islands are almost complete, and are currently being considered by Scottish Future's Trust against grant funding conditions.

Each strategy has a different focus:

- CnES are aiming at 4 key hubs along the spinal route of the islands.

- Orkney are phasing installations by themes of community, travel and then duplication on existing charging sites.
- Shetland are aiming at a larger number of smaller hubs across the islands.

On-street charging is not considered a priority by any of the Island Councils due to the high percentage of population with access to off-street parking.

However, there are also some common historical issues on the Islands that make the scaled delivery of the EVIF programme challenging:

- Maintenance of the chargers on Islands is historically poor and as yet an unresolved issue. All 3 Island Councils are keen to retain at least oversight of the network and utilise local maintenance teams to maximise uptime.
- Low utilisation forecasts in the majority of locations makes it a challenge to retain a commercially competitive but affordable tariff.

The next steps will be to further understand and define the requirements of the Island Councils to plan a procurement strategy. Unfortunately it is unlikely that the Island Councils will be able to commit to fixed deliverables within the Pathfinder timeframes if that is the route Pathfinder takes. However, Pathfinder may develop a call-off framework the Islands could still use.

## **RISK REGISTER**

### RTS Delivery

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports RTS objectives and the monitoring of their implementation.

### Policy

Impact – Positive

Comment – This work supports the development of our Electric Vehicle Strategy Policy, particularly with regards to remote, rural and island provision.

### Financial

Impact – Positive

Comment – Cost savings as a direct result of this shared service approach

### Equality

Impact – Positive.

Comment – HITRANS support for improving electric vehicle infrastructure helps eliminate the barriers to decarbonised travel for all

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Members are asked to note the report.

**Report by:** Ranald Robertson  
**Designation:** Partnership Director  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023