

Item:

**10**



## **Report to Partnership Meeting 15 September 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 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Shared Service is now formally in place via an MOA, which allowed HITRANS to recruit for the role of Project Manager previously authorised by the Board. Gemma Robinson was appointed after interview, allowing continuity within the workstreams.

Moray Council proposed to Committee that they join in with the well aligned electric vehicle infrastructure objectives of Highland, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils. The Committee agreed that was the best course of action. HITRANS will continue to represent Moray's interests in that formal partnership by annual review.

As Urban Foresight Consultants developed the EV strategy of Highland, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, HITRANS have appointed them to analyse on-street charging demand in Moray and update the funding application documents required by the end of August.

Procurement was also completed for consultancy work to expand on aspects of the Islands' evaluation frameworks, create a combined strategy and expansion plan and revise figures for the EVIF grant applications. The contract was awarded to Mott MacDonald, who will expand on the following aspects:

- Public transport and community integration
- Charger reliability
- Sustainable tariff opportunities

- Alternative investors (most private investment will come from Charge Point Operators, but there are unique opportunities in the community and energy sector on the Islands)
- International best practice on islands
- Charge Place Scotland transition options

This will include stakeholder engagement and will be completed by 7<sup>th</sup> September.

All EVIF grant applications and strategies will be re-submitted in September and then procurement planning will begin.

Finally, additional funding requests have been submitted to analyse the electrical feasibility of all EVIF proposed sites 50kW+ to minimise both cost and delivery timeframes. Below 50kW does not generally require the same analysis.

## **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:** Gemma Robinson  
**Designation:** EVIF Project Manager  
**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> August 2023