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Report to Partnership Board Meeting 10th November 2023

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.

Moray Council is joining Highland, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils in their strategy, which aims to generate a revenue long term for further investment and utilises a hub and spoke approach to ensure charging in remote and rural areas is deployed as an essential spoke to the more commercially viable hubs.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands Council and Shetland Islands Council are developing a combined Islands' EV infrastructure strategy and may then have further opportunity to collaborate with other Councils in the region.

UPDATE

Moray, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Island Councils all await feedback from Scottish Future's Trust on their EV infrastructure strategy and expansion plan submission.

In the meantime, Moray Council continues to integrate well into the EV infrastructure expansion plan for Highland, Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils. A project initiation documents is being reviewed by all parties prior to inform procurement documents. Moray's fleet and housing team are now joining the conversations, uniting the Council approach to infrastructure deployment.

The combined Islands EV infrastructure strategy was completed by Mott MacDonald. It presents a strong strategic case for site locations in terms of accessibility and a just transition, but the

charger utilisation predicted will not support the return on investment required by the financial modelling tool. Though collaborative conversations with other public bodies have started, it will take more time than the programme offers to build up that demand together.

Mott MacDonald's report also indicates that an alternative investment partner might be more suitable on the islands than a charge point operator. This could be a new stream of business for an alternative investor and will also take time to explore.

Hitrans therefore leads the request for a high majority of public funding to continue infrastructure deployment as is on the Islands (Council owned and operated), whilst working to increase demand and explore alternative investment partners to make the Islands' portfolio more commercially viable as the EVIF funding programme ends.

Finally, the Islands' received additional funding for to analyse the electrical feasibility of all EVIF proposed sites 50kW+ to minimise both cost and delivery timeframes. Procurement has completed and work is due to start this week.

Moray awaits funding confirmation, but procurement has also been completed and is ready to award.

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.

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Date: 31st October 2023