

	Strengths	Challenges and their impact	Ideas for future improvements
Project Management: Planning and scheduling			No suggestions - happy with how this went.
Project Management: Monitoring			No suggestions - happy with how this went.
Project Management: Procurement		The challenge was having to re-tender, but this was out-with everyone's hands as the managing authority had dictated this (from memory). It had a significant impact on the project and knock-on delays.	
Project Management: Communication	Communication from PM was excellent, we were kept informed at every stage of the project and where there were delays/challenges/ anything that needed urgent attention, we were notified. Any issues were dealt with in a professional and pragmatic manner.		Keep doing what you're doing!
Site selection	The overall project aims made sense and should be replicated in future projects to ensure a just transition in rural communities.	Unfortunately these seem to have been selected with no reference to who owned the sites, whether they would be willing to have chargers installed on their land, title restrictions and burdens etc. As always my advice is as soon as a decision is made to lease, buy, sell etc an area of ground ask a suitably qualified person to look at the title to ensure that there is no title problem. Some of the sites had to be dropped because they were not suitable because of land ownership eg Mallaig. Another site was dropped because no contact could be made with the Owner who had previously advised that they would agree to installation of Chargers eg Arisaig. This caused delays. Generally going forward it should not be assumed that because an area of land belongs to a Council that it is suitable or available for the installation of EV chargers. Councils do not own vast swathes of unused land.	Engage with stakeholders earlier; whoever is to own the infrastructure post-commissioning should be engaged with early as possible to ensure they own the land or legal leases could be in place as this caused significant delays and sites to be removed from the project.
Legal agreements	The solicitors from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, and Argyll and Bute Council were excellent to work with. Working together we managed to draw up template agreements and conclude everything.		Same as above - engage with Legal/Solicitors as early as possible to ensure there is no unnecessary impact on project.
DNO connections	DNO applications were applied for in good time to ensure no delays.	Unfortunately, DNO connections can mean extensive costs. Whilst this isn't known until the quotation is received, it would be best to apply for all site considerations rather than narrowing down sites first. This might dictate earlier what can/can't be done. Another addition to this is wayleaves and land ownership. Similar to Legal/Solicitor input, this causes significant delays if the landowner has not been engaged with. This is more for the DNO to handle, but chargers could be repositioned if we know early as possible.	
Metering		Metering is a nightmare in the Highlands - particularly rural Highland! This isn't a fault of the project, but the meter installers. There's nothing that the project team could've done differently in this section.	The only future lesson would be to try to push DNO for a connection date as soon as first contact with PM is had, so we can request the meter.
Installation by contractor	From our perspective, installers went to plan and the contractors managed to rearrange where there were any delays. They also were good in terms of communication when we had dealings with them.		A suggestion would be to ensure that contractors aren't bidding based upon completing jobs during the same journey - ie. I think one of our sites could have been commissioned earlier but the contractor was looking to save costs by commissioning two sites at the same time.