

Item:
17



Report to Partnership Board Meeting 2nd February 2025

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.

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

Procurement dialogue cycles have finished and suppliers are now preparing their tenders. Moray Council are looking to resource recruitment to deliver the contract in Partnership with the other Councils involved, and as such are leaving this shared service with the agreement of all parties.

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Orkney Islands and Shetland Islands Councils

Argyll and Bute Council have agreed to formally enter into this shared service as Moray leave to progress mutual aims together, which also has the approval of all members .

The combined EVIF funding application for this shared service is with Transport Scotland for processing and they are due to discuss it in February.

Contactless Regulations

Following our last report detailing the difficulties our regional Councils were having in meeting the Public Charge Point Regulations for retrofitting contactless payments at all journey chargers, EST have announced a 'Contactless Compliance Grant' to fund retrofitting and replacements required for compliance. There is some question over whether the funding will be accessible, as new chargers are meant to be procured and installed by the end of March. We await a response to our concerns on this timescale.

Draft Implementation plan for Scottish Government's Vision for Scotland's EV charging network

EST have drafted an implementation for the vision behind the EVIF programme and it is currently in it's consultation period. HITRANS have drafted a response based on the work of this shared service and the challenges encountered in applying the EVIF programme to the region. Our draft response is attached in appendix A and we ask the board to approve this for submission. Appendices B and C are the referenced draft implementation plan and the integrated impact assessments.

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
- Approve the consultation report

Report by: Gemma Robinson
Designation: EVIF Project Manager
Date: 28th January 2025