

Item:
17



Report to Partnership Board Meeting 25th April 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

HITRANS is awaiting confirmation that our EVIF grant application for this shared service has been approved by Transport Scotland. This is expected in May.

One of the funding conditions is that a high-level plan for the strategy and expansion of the charging networks across the 4 Councils is put in the public domain. This plan can be found in the appendix and summarises the details shared in previous reports. A copy can also be found on the HITRANS website <https://hitrans.org.uk/documents/>.

Maintenance, back office, procurement and strategy development continue, but there are no definitive updates to provide on these as yet.

Contactless Regulations

Following our last report announcing the 'Contactless Compliance Grant' to fund replacements charges for Public ChargePoint Regulation compliance, the Western Isles have been able to install 3x 50kW replacements and Shetland two. Unfortunately Swarco ran out of stock to be able to supply Argyll and Bute Council (9 required), and Orkney Islands (requiring 4) had a different supplier that could not meet the tight schedule either. This grant funding may still be made available this financial year, but we understand the replacements can be funded by the EVIF programme if not.

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 are 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: 4th April 2025