

Agenda Item	25
Report No	EDI/85/18

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Environment, Development and Infrastructure

Date: 8 November 2018

Report Title: Electric Vehicle Charging - Update

Report By: Director of Community Services

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the various Transport Scotland and associated initiatives to install electric vehicle charging points across the Highlands, including the Low Carbon Transport and Travel proposal at Rose Street car park in Inverness.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to:

- note the progress in delivery of charging infrastructure made to date and the programme for future delivery in 2018/19 and 2019/20;
- note that the Council has been delayed by Transport Scotland in the previously agreed intention to introduce charges for consumption of electricity, and that usage charges can and will be introduced from January 2019;
- note that fixed term funding has been secured to manage the delivery of charging infrastructure and promotion;
- agree that Transport Scotland should include grant funding for project management in the annual grant offers; and
- note that Highland Council is developing a planning policy for the provision of charging infrastructure in new development.

3. Background

- 3.1 At the Community Services committee on 3 November 2016, report COM 48/16 – Electric Vehicle Charging was presented.
- 3.2 Since November 2016 Transport Scotland has continued to fund the Scottish Government's national programme for the provision of electric vehicle rapid chargers on the trunk and strategic road network. Additionally a programme for the "Electric A9" has been announced, to provide banks of chargers at 15 mile intervals in suitable locations such as rest areas or communities in close proximity to the A9 between Falkirk and Thurso.
- 3.3 In June 2018 Transport Scotland granted Highland Council £691,000 of funding to deliver 12 rapid chargers in communities across the Isle of Skye, coastal communities in Wester Ross and on the NC500 at Lochinver.
- 3.4 Under the European Unions' ERDF and Transport Scotland's Low Carbon Travel and Transport programme, the Highland Council submitted a bid for £1.32m of grant funding in partnership with HiTrans and NHS Highland. The project includes the provision of a bank of chargers at a low carbon hub incorporated into Rose Street Car Park, Inverness and a secondary hub at Raigmore Hospital. At the time of this report the Grant Offer Acceptance has been signed and the Council is awaiting the finalised contract form Transport Scotland.
- 3.5 In 2018, the Highland Council, working in partnership with HiTrans and Highlands and Islands Airports, successfully secured funding for rapid chargers at Inverness Airport and Margaret Street, Inverness. These chargers will support an electric taxi initiative funded through the Energy Savings Trust.
- 3.6 At the end of the above programme the Highland Council will own over 40 rapid chargers and some 20 fast chargers.
- 3.7 In 2018 HiTrans, working in partnership with the 5 authorities, published their 'Electric Vehicle Strategy' for the Highlands and Islands.
- 3.8 The Scottish Government, in 2014, modified planning legislation providing Local Authorities with permitted development rights for installing charging infrastructure in publically accessible car parks and on-street locations.
- 3.9 Committee previously approved the introduction of usage charges. This required Transport Scotland's back office administration contractor to be able to process the charges. Transport Scotland retendered their contract in 2016/17 which introduced delays.

4. Programme

- 4.1 The 2016 report confirmed the delivery of three rapid and one semi-rapid charger at: Achnasheen, Fort Augustus, Ullapool and Dornoch respectively. Progress in the delivery has been delayed however transport Scotland protected the funding and orders were in place early this year. These will be completed this year with the contractor and SSE finalising their programmes.
- 4.2 Historically Transport Scotland has not provided funding for project management, assuming that Local Authorities are able to fund these resources internally. With the

currently budgetary position this is not easy and there have been project delays both in Highland Council and across Scotland. The recent increase in funding sources during 2018 has enabled project delivery to be moved to D&I's Energy & Sustainability team, where project management resources have been identified on a short-term basis.

- 4.3 The chargers on Skye, Wester Ross and at Lochinver are programmed for delivery by the end of March 2019.
- 4.4 A LEADER bid has been submitted to fund an EV Officer to: assist with delivery of infrastructure, develop a rural EV strategy and develop community capacity. This includes assistance in the development of EV car clubs along with linking with Community Transport Trusts.
- 4.5 The chargers at the Rose Street Car Park are expected to be operational by Autumn 2019.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 To address provision of charging infrastructure in new developments, the planning service will produce additional planning guidance.
- 5.2 Works are continuing to raise lack of funding for project management with Transport Scotland. As this is a national issue it would be beneficial for COLSA to give this consideration.
- 5.3 Usage charges can now be introduced and discussions are ongoing with Transport Scotland and their service provider to have this in place from January 2019.

6. Implications

- 6.1 Resource – The introduction of usage charges from January 2019 will balance the cost of electricity provided, which is currently estimated at £20,000 per annum.
- 6.2 Legal -There are no legal implications.
- 6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) – The programme supports rural communities by providing facilities to recharge and operate electric vehicles in remote areas.
- 6.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever – The programme supports the Council's climate change and carbon clever programme.
- 6.5 Risk – There are risk implications for delivery where SSE require wayleaves for power connections or the power grid is at capacity.
- 6.6 Gaelic – There are no Gaelic implications.

Designation: Head of Roads and Transport

Date: 29 October 2018

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