

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

25 September 2014

Report by Director of Environment

ELECTRIC VEHICLES INFRASTRUCTURE

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To advise the Cabinet on the progress in making use of a ring-fenced government grant (2014/15) to provide appropriate electric vehicle charging points in suitable locations within the East Renfrewshire Council area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet welcomes the grant funding of £78,000 to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

BACKGROUND

3. The Scottish Government and The Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) are actively encouraging the use of electric vehicles as a sustainable travel option for the future. Part of their strategy is to ensure that there are adequate charging sites throughout the country. This will give confidence to drivers that they will be able to top up/recharge at multiple sites in the future, reducing the uncertainty of planning longer trips.

4. Strategically the Government are suggesting that every 35 miles there should be a rapid charger site which should be located close to the strategic/trunk road network.

5. All Councils have been offered a grant to help to provide the infrastructure that will encourage the take up and use of electric vehicles.

6. The grant funding allocation for East Renfrewshire Council is £78,000. This level of funding is expected to provide;

- 1 strategic site (triple charger)
- 3 fast charger local sites (2 have to be in car parks covered by CCTV)
- 1 local medium charger

7. The site locations which are still to be formally identified will all require to be capable of receiving Pay as you Go technology (strong mobile signal strength is essential). Surveys will be undertaken to ensure that the mobile phone signal strength is suitable at each potential location.

REPORT

8. The Council require to identify suitable locations for the charging sites and liaise with Scottish Power in respect of appropriate electricity supplies. The procurement of the installation and supply of the charging equipment is covered under an Energy Savings Trust/ Chargeplace Scotland Framework.

FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY

9. The sites will be funded from the allocated central government grant. This will also include 3 years of warranty on the equipment. Thereafter the maintenance will become the Council's responsibility.

CONSULTATION

10. The report has been prepared following internal consultation within the Environment Department.

11. The Community Planning Partnership has been contacted and are content that the Roads Service project manage this project.

PARTNERSHIP WORKING

12. This report has been developed jointly between the Roads Service and the Community Planning Partnership.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE PROPOSAL

13. The new infrastructure will allow residents / members of the public to use these facilities initially at no cost. This should improve confidence levels in respect of perceived battery life deficiencies.

14. The early model electric vehicles only had an expected range of 100 miles although recently models are coming to the market place with a range of 250 miles.

15. The new infrastructure will be funded entirely by use of the grant, although there will be a future maintenance responsibility for the Council. The expected usage levels of electricity will be a very small burden to the Council (estimated at around £200 per annum).

16. There are no implications in terms of staffing, property, legal, IT, equalities and sustainability.

CONCLUSIONS

17. The Cabinet should be aware of the national aspirations in respect of increased energy efficient vehicles. This grant funding allows a step change in respect of strategic provision.

18. It should be noted that many car manufacturers will either lease batteries to individuals or offer to install a personal charging point at people's homes. It is inevitable that the use of electric vehicles will increase over time. As more vehicles are being used, demand will increase as prices fall.

RECOMMENDATIONS

19. It is recommended that the Cabinet welcomes the grant funding of £78,000 to encourage the use of electric vehicles.

Director of Environment

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KEY WORDS

Electric Vehicles, Charging points