

---

**TO:               INFRASTRUCTURE, LAND AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY BOARD**

**ON:               29 AUGUST 2018**

---

**Report by:     DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE**

---

**Heading:       SWITCHED ON FLEET GRANT FUNDING**

---

## **1.       Summary**

- 1.1     The Scottish Government have launched a new Switched on Towns and Cities Challenge Fund, inviting applications for an award of funding to facilitate a step-change in the uptake of plug in electric vehicles (EV) in Scotland's towns and cities.
- 1.2     The fund has been designed to support intensive high impact actions within a town or city to further encourage and promote the uptake of electric vehicles. The challenge fund will support projects and initiatives which are expected for focus on a combination of activities which will:
- Deepen and significantly expand the provision of publicly available EV charging infrastructure into new as well as existing areas of a town or city.
  - Address EV charging issues associated with tenement buildings or residential properties that lack off-street parking.
  - Focus upon the development of EV-friendly 'districts' within a town or city.
  - Locate infrastructure for destination charging (e.g. close to public amenities, sport centres, public transport hubs).
  - Replace a significant proportion of public sector fleet cars or light vans with plug-in alternatives.
  - Provide other volume ready plug in vehicle types.
  - Provide infrastructure to enable incentivised car parking/use of restricted road lanes etc.
  - Adopt intelligent management systems to support local EV incentives.
  - Provide infrastructure and solutions for EV taxi ranks (possible).

- Integrate EV infrastructure into wider energy systems including renewable generation and storage
- 1.3 The total project value can be between £1.5 to £2.5 million, and although up to 100% of the costs of the project may be supported by the fund, an applicant's ability to provide some funding toward the project will be considered as part of the assessment of bids.
- 1.4 The Challenge Fund is targeted at local authorities who are well placed to deliver on local incentives to support electric vehicle uptake. Applicants will need to demonstrate existing EV leadership and this will be taken into account in assessment of bids. Other Community Planning Partners as well as wider public sector bodies are eligible project partners.
- 1.5 The Council has been proactive over a number of years, increasing the volume of electric fleet to the current 42 vehicles and regularly participates in opportunities to receive additional funding to supplement the annual £1.5million Capital Vehicle Replacement Programme.
- 1.6 This challenge fund represents a significant opportunity to make a step change in the Council's approach to embracing electric fleet and improving charging infrastructure.
- 1.7 The stage 1 application process closes for submissions on the 31<sup>st</sup> August, with the successful applicants being informed in November 2018. The successful projects must then be delivered during 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- 

## **2. Recommendations**

It is recommended the Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board:

- 2.1 Approves the submission of a stage 1 bid to the Switched on Towns and Cities Challenge Fund, with a grant application of £2.2million, towards a total project value of £2.5million.
- 2.2 Notes that the contribution from the Council for the delivery of the project is anticipated to be £300,000 over 2019/20 and 2020/21, which will be funded from the Council's annual Vehicle Replacement Programme.
- 2.3 Notes that if the bid is successful, a further report will be brought back to a future meeting of this Policy Board setting out the award and the detailed plans over the next two years.
-

### **3. Background**

#### **Application Process**

- 3.1 The new Switched on Towns and Cities Challenge Fund aims to facilitate a step change in the uptake of plug-in electric vehicles (EVs) in Scotland's towns and cities. Its objective is to support intensive, high impact capital activity in order to incentivise, encourage and promote the use of plug-in EVs. It will operate as a competitive capital fund with an annual call for bids.
- 3.2 The Challenge Fund is targeted at local authorities who are well positioned to deliver the infrastructure and local incentives to support EV uptake. Community Planning Partners as defined in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 as well as wider public sector bodies, with local bases, are eligible project partners.
- 3.3 Run as an annual competition, it is expected that up to 5 awards will be made through the first round of funding with eligible costs per project in the range of £1.5 million to £2.5 million. Costs below this level will be considered exceptionally. Up to 100% of eligible costs may be supported by Transport Scotland funding, although extra credit will be given to bids that can bring match-funding from non-Transport Scotland sources.
- 3.4 Projects will need to focus upon either a single town or city. It will be up to the local authority to prioritise which town or city this will be in collaboration with any project partners.
- 3.5 Applicants are encouraged to put forward proposals that they consider will deliver greatest impact. Projects containing significant activity aimed at implementing convenient solutions to address EV charging for residents living in tenements or with no off-street parking are particularly encouraged.
- 3.6 Applicants will also be expected to describe the wider non-capital activities they plan or have already implemented to encourage and incentivise EV uptake in the relevant town or city.
- 3.7 The Council was awarded a grant of £208,168 in 2018/2019 for EV and a grant of £415,000 for EV charging infrastructure. It is intended that this grant funding for EV charging infrastructure is located in Johnstone, Renfrew and the Villages, with the bid focussing on Paisley.

### **4. Renfrewshire Application**

- 4.1 It is important that projects should not focus on a single theme, and provide as broad a benefit as possible. A significant proportion of activity can focus on Council fleet vehicle replacement with electric vehicles, but there must be a significant element of the bid that may directly benefit the public.
- 4.2 The application for Renfrewshire focusses on 3 main areas;
  - Expansion of electric vehicles within the Council fleet,

- Expansion of electric vehicle charging infrastructure within Paisley, reflecting the terms of the grant that the project must focus on a single town or city, and
  - Proposals to benefit general public such as increasing the number of charging points in community centres, leisure centres and other public facilities.
- 4.3 The Council has an annual Capital Investment Programme for Replacement of the Light and Heavy fleet of £1.5million. In an average year, the Capital Investment in Light Fleet (vehicles which could be replaced with Electric Vehicles) is £150,000.
- 4.4 It is proposed that the Grant Claim should focus on delivering as many of the activities as listed in section 1.3 above, with the Council having a significant focus of replacing the Council light fleet with electric vehicles and investing in infrastructure to service this fleet.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the grant claim could be allocated £1.5m on Council Fleet/Infrastructure, £200k to support projects agreed with our community planning partners and £800k for schemes of benefit to the General Public.
- 4.6 The application from Renfrewshire will focus activity on the following areas
- Creation of a number of hubs in Paisley town centre as well as installing individual charging points in car parks,
  - Locate infrastructure for destination charging close to public amenities such as the Lagoon centre and other destinations
  - Creation of a large charging hub at Underwood Road and replacement of 70 vehicles to electric (cars and light vans)
  - Potential to create free or reduced tariffs to use electric points within council car parks
- 4.7 The application is attached at Appendix 1 and outlines the approach Renfrewshire Council is taking to secure the grant funding. The successful applicants will be notified during October or November 2018 with the projects then being delivered during 2019/20 and 2020/21
- 

### **Implications of the Report**

1. **Financial** – The Council's contribution to the Project will be £300,000 over two financial years and will be funded from the annual Vehicle Replacement Programme.
2. **HR & Organisational Development** – None
3. **Community Planning** – None
4. **Legal** - None

5. **Property/Assets** –.
6. **Information Technology** - None
7. **Equality & Human Rights** - None
8. **Health & Safety** – None
9. **Procurement** – Engagement will take place with procurement during the process of tendering for contractors to deliver the improvements programme.
10. **Risk** – A risk register will be developed as part of any site associated works programme, reflecting the requirement to continue to have an operational cemetery during any works programme.
11. **Privacy Impact** – None
12. **Cosla Policy Position** – None

---

**List of Background Papers** - None

---

**Author:** Shona MacDougall, Director of Environment & Infrastructure  
**E-mail:** [shona.i.macdougall@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:shona.i.macdougall@renfrewshire.gov.uk)