

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 3 SEPTEMBER 2024

ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATION

REPORT BY GRAEME DAILLY, DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

1. ABSTRACT

This report seeks authorisation for Angus Council officers to make an application to the Scottish Futures Trust for the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund, in collaboration with Perth and Kinross Council, as detailed in this report.

2. ALIGNMENT TO THE COUNCIL PLAN AND COUNCIL POLICIES

This Report contributes to the achievement of our priorities in our Council Plan for 2023 – 2028.

**Caring for our Place (Community Plan priorities)**

- Enable inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe communities across Angus.
- Make our local services accessible.
- Improve connectivity in and around Angus.

**Caring for our Place (Council Plan priorities)**

- We will take action to mitigate against climate change by delivering our Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030.

3. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee -

- (i) agrees that officers work collaboratively with Perth and Kinross Council officers to apply to Transport Scotland for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding; and
- (ii) notes that a report will be submitted to a future Communities Committee setting out the progress on, and a future strategy, for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure in Angus.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Council has previously received annual grant funding through the Local Authority Installation Programme (LAIP). The programme which was funded by the Scottish Government and administered by Transport Scotland, successfully delivered Electric Vehicle (EV) chargers at strategic locations throughout Angus, with initial provision around the strategic road network. Provision was then expanded into each town, before moving into villages, then addressing gaps, and building up resilience.
- 4.2 The level of annual grant funding from LAIP varied year on year ranging from £6,000 in 2015/16 rising to £371,000 in 2018/19 as reported to Communities Committee in Report No. [43/21](#).
- 4.3 Report No. [43/21](#) recorded that Angus Council successfully secured £306,500 in 2018 from this Energy Saving Trust Scotland administered fund. The fund along with £144,000 of Angus Council match funding was to provide an EV charging hub at Orchardbank, Forfar, which became operational in February 2021.

- 4.4 In 2019 the Scottish government set a net zero emissions target of 2045 and has a commitment to phase out the need for petrol and diesel cars and vans on the roads by 2030.
- 4.5 Also in 2019, Angus Council worked positively with funding partners Transport Scotland and through the development of a Regional EV Strategy published November 2019 by TACTRAN (the Regional Transport Partnership for Angus, Dundee City, Perth & Kinross and Stirling Council areas) to deliver EV charging infrastructure in a coordinated and collaborative way. The Regional EV Strategy, Regional EV Delivery Plan, Baseline Report and Demand Forecast are available to download from the TACTRAN website at: [https://www.tactran.gov.uk/strategy\\_downloads.php](https://www.tactran.gov.uk/strategy_downloads.php)
- 4.6 In 2021/22 the annual LAIP came to an end and only grant funding for extending warranty and maintenance contracts was awarded.
- 4.7 Also, in 2021/22 the council introduced a tariff for use of the EV charging infrastructure, solely to recover electricity and administration costs to maintain the network. This had been reported to the Policy and Resources Committee in Report No. [197/21](#). The tariff has since been reviewed in 2022/23 (Report No. [42/23](#)) and 2024/25 (Report No. [52/24](#))
- 4.8 It was recognised by Transport Scotland that in order to deliver the 2045 targets and to continue to grow ahead of demand, there was a need to transition away from the current ChargePlace Scotland model to accelerate private investment in Scotland. Therefore in 2022/23, Transport Scotland introduced a new grant fund, the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund. Monies were granted to each local authority to carry out a pathfinder exercise on how to deliver on these targets. In conjunction with this, Transport Scotland tasked Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) to administer this process.
- 4.9 This grant was used to procure and appoint a consultant, to carry out this study. The outcome of this study will be reported at a future Communities Committee. The study considered two further hubs, and some 60 potential fast charger locations, commensurate with the forecast expansion in electric vehicles. The location of these units has yet to be identified and confirmed. The outcome of this study ultimately allowed Angus Council to progress towards the application process.
- 4.10 To progress these proposals, in cognisance of the regional EV strategy, officers have developed a joint approach with Perth and Kinross Council colleagues.

## **5. PROPOSAL**

- 5.1 Transport Scotland's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Fund is open for applications to progress the strategy and fund the potential charging infrastructure. A bid has been prepared in collaboration with Perth and Kinross Council, who are leading on the application.
- 5.2 The application is for £725,000 of funding for Angus Council, over a three-year period. There is a Private Sector Investment element to the bid. This will be developed as part of the strategy subject to the application being successful.
- 5.3 The Committee are asked to agree that officers work collaboratively with Perth & Kinross Council officers to apply to Transport Scotland for Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Funding. If the council is successful in its bid, a further report will be required to appropriate Committee regarding acceptance of any grant offer.
- 5.4 The Committee are asked to note that the outcome of the EV charging study, developed by the consultant, will be reported to a future Communities Committee.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The report details the potential grant income to the council if the bid is successful. The only cost to the Council would be in the officer time required to support the application. There may also be an opportunity of resource funding from Transport Scotland to support this work.

## **7. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report. If the application is successful, the grant funding will enable action to mitigate against climate change and contribute towards delivering our Transition to Net Zero Action Plan: 2022 to 2030.

## 8. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY

There are no direct equality implications in terms of this report as there are either neutral or positive impacts on protected characteristic groups for the proposals contained in this report.

## 9. CONSULTATION

The Director of Legal, Governance & Change, and Director of Finance have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

**NOTE:** The background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) which were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above report are:

- Report No. 43/21- Angus Active & Sustainable Travel Strategy -Communities Committee - 23 February 2021
- Report No. 197/21 - Recovery of Costs for Operation of Electronic Vehicle Charging – Policy & Resources Committee – 8 June 2021
- Report No.42/23 - 2023/24 Revenue & Capital Budget Setting
- Proposed Budgets for the Infrastructure & Environment Directorate - Special Angus Council - 2 March 2023
- Report No.52/24 - 2024/25 Revenue & Capital Budget Setting – Proposed Budgets for the Infrastructure & Environment Directorate - Special Angus Council – 29 February 2024

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