



Glasgow City Region Cabinet

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Item 8

8th August 2023

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE – UPDATE REPORT

Purpose of Report:

This report provides the Cabinet with an update on the ongoing work in relation to electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) across the Glasgow City Region (GCR).

Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to:

- a) Note the content of the report; and
- b) Agree the proposed principles for the future expansion of EVCI in GCR as set out at section 6.

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This report provides the Cabinet with an update on the ongoing work in relation to electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) across the Glasgow City Region (GCR).

2. Background

- 2.1 At the Chief Executives' Group on 27 April 2023, it was agreed that *"to progress this work, a senior officer group with representation from across the 8 Member Authorities be established to shape and oversee the next stage of the work"*.
- 2.2 The first meeting of the Senior Officers' Group, chaired by Colin Park, Head of Roads, Transportation and Fleet Services at South Lanarkshire Council, took place on 18 May 2023 and has continued to meet fortnightly thereafter. The agreed objectives of the Group and member responsibilities are:
 - a) to act as a steering group for the forthcoming work that will give the GCR Chief Executives' Group further information on the feasibility of the potential commercial models;
 - b) based upon the outcome of the work, to provide recommendation on the future commercial approach that will go to the Chief Executives' Group and Cabinet for approval; and,
 - c) to be the lead contact for each Member Authority and to liaise with their own Chief Executive.

3. Electric Vehicle Strategy and Expansion Plans (EV SEPs)

- 3.1 In 2022, on behalf of the eight GCR Member Authorities (MAs), the Glasgow City Region Programme Management Office (GCR PMO) commissioned Mott MacDonald to undertake work to scope out the expected scale of electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI) that would be required to support a transition to electric vehicles across the Region.
- 3.3 This phase of the work has been completed and each MA is in possession of their own EV SEP. There is an overarching EV SEP report available for the Glasgow City Region which was submitted to Transport Scotland by the Director for Regional Economic Growth following discussion at the 9 May 2023 Cabinet and this will subsequently be considered by Transport Scotland's Advisory Group with any feedback and comments then communicated to the GCR PMO.

4. Market Engagement – Prior Information Notice

- 4.1 A key action undertaken by the EV Senior Officers Group has been to prepare and publish a Prior Information Notice (PIN) / Request for Information (RFI) to explore the market appetite from private sector operators to partner with the public sector in the accelerated roll out of EVCI. This is an exploratory exercise that will allow the members to understand the potential opportunities and risks for local authorities in entering into a concessionary type arrangement with private sector(s).
- 4.2 The PIN was published on the 12 June 2023 and closed on the 7 July 2023. Detailed analysis of the responses is currently underway with a subset of the EV Senior Officers Group and representatives from Scottish Futures Trust. The intelligence gathered from this exercise will be used to inform next steps in the chosen method of delivery and set

a timeline for next steps. However, it is clear from the initial discussions of the EV Senior Officers' Group that there will be a requirement to assemble specialist expertise to support future delivery.

5. Delivery Model Feasibility Study

- 5.1 The purpose of this further short study is to provide MAs with a fuller understanding of the relative strengths, weaknesses, risks, and opportunities of a short list of potential EVCI delivery models and the potential commercial models that could be progressed. The EV Senior Officers Group has overseen the commissioning of this study and the consultancy firm Mott MacDonald has commenced the work which is due to be completed by 18 August.

6. Principles of EVCI Expansion

- 6.1 Following discussion at the 9 May 2023 Cabinet it was agreed that:

“the progress report to be submitted to the next meeting of this Cabinet in August 2023, include a proposed statement of principles and priorities for the Cabinet to approve prior to continuing to develop further on the delivery of EVCI within the GCR.”

- 6.2 The EV Senior Officers' Group has developed a set of proposed key principles and priorities that should guide the next stages of EVCI roll out in GCR as set out below:

- a) To deliver a just transition, we must ensure equitable access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure, with a clear recognition of geographical characteristics and the different solutions that may be applicable.
- b) Ensure that all residents are able to access electric vehicle charge points close to their home.
- c) Align with the priorities of the Sustainable Travel hierarchy to ensure that public transport, walking, wheeling and cycling options are prioritised wherever possible.
- d) Collaborate across the GCR member authorities to identify cost savings and ways to deliver a high standard of customer experience.
- e) Work together to identify and overcome grid capacity issues.
- f) Identify opportunities to develop joint public and fleet EVCI projects, and where there are opportunities to align with HGV, hydrogen refuelling and the introduction of rapid and ultra-rapid charging stations.

7. Charge Place Scotland (CPS) and Transport Scotland

- 7.1 The CPS package of support provides a 24-hour “back office” function for numerous existing EV charge points including billing and maintenance. Transport Scotland has indicated that the contract for these services will cease in 2025 with local authorities being required to put in place alternative long-term hosting arrangements for their existing EVCP assets which are currently part of the CPS scheme.

- 7.2 The EV Senior Officers' Group will meet with representatives of Transport Scotland during August to discuss how we can ensure an effective and seamless transition from the CPS scheme to new arrangements.

8. Next Steps

- 8.1 The next steps for progressing the EVCI work are summarised below:

- a) EV Senior Officers' Group and GCR PMO to complete the analysis of the responses to the PIN;
- b) Representatives from the EV Senior Officers Group to undertake market engagement exercise with key respondents to the PIN as required;
- c) EV Senior Officers' Group and GCR PMO to support the completion of the Delivery Model Feasibility Study;
- d) Based upon the PIN responses and Feasibility Study, develop a recommendation(s) that will be submitted by the EV Senior Officers' Group to the CEG (6 September 2023) on the future delivery approach for EVCI in GCR; and,
- e) EV Senior Officers Group to lead on the discussions with Transport Scotland regarding the transition from current Charge Place Scotland.

9 Recommendations

- 9.1 The Cabinet is invited to:

- a) Note the content of the report; and
- b) Agree the proposed principles for the future expansion of EVCI in GCR as set out at section 6.