

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance and Resources
DATE	6 th December 2012
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Request for Approval of Expenditure for Supply of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Tender
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/12/258

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report informs Committee of the allocation of Grant Funding from Transport Scotland to be spent on the procurement and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The Committee is advised of the intention to go out to tender for the supply of the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure for this financial year and is asked to approve the estimated expenditure as detailed in this report.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. Approve the estimated expenditure of up to £120,000 for 2012/13 from the grant to facilitate the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- ii. Allow officers to procure Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure, estimated to be in the region of £80,000, through an open tender in accordance with SO1(3) of the Council's Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement; and
- iii. Allow officers to identify and directly award the contract to the preferred bidder.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding for the project was awarded to the Aberdeen Community Planning Partnership, of which Aberdeen City Council is a member, by Transport Scotland, the transport agency of the Scottish Government, in October 2012 as part of a UK-wide initiative known as "Plugged in Places" funded by the Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV). The £120,000 of funding is to cover the full cost of the supply and installation of the units for the 2012/13 financial year. Around £80,000 of this is expected to be spent on the units themselves with the remainder expected to be spent on installation and supporting infrastructure. The installation of the units and supporting infrastructure

is to be carried out by the Council so does not require to be included within the tendering process. Any underspend must be returned to Transport Scotland. A condition of the funding is that the units must be installed by the end of the financial year.

Transport Scotland has confirmed that funding for “Plugged in Places” will continue for Scotland into the 2013/14 financial year but have not confirmed how much this will be, how or where it will be allocated.

Transport Scotland has outlined the minimum number of units that can be purchased and at least two of these must be Rapid Chargers. These are expensive to run, but once installed and operational, units will be made available to the public on a “pay as you go” basis so the Council has the ability to charge for the service provided and cover the cost of provision of electricity. As well as being asked for the cost of supplying the units, bidders will be asked to provide the cost of a maintenance package for them for a minimum of three years. After this period, the maintenance aspect will be reviewed.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The estimated spend on the units themselves is around £80,000 which is below the threshold set under the Public Contracts Scotland Regulations 2012 – and so tendering will be undertaken in accordance with the Council’s Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and a Non-EU open tendering procedure will be undertaken.

An EHRIA has been completed.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

The UK government has set targets to reduce the UK’s greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2027 and by 80% by 2050. Given that transport is recognised to be one of the largest sources of CO2 emissions, Electric Vehicles (EVs) are seen as being a large part of the solution due to their zero tailpipe emissions. The Office of Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) aims to encourage EV uptake with the “Plugged in Places” scheme, which gives grant funding to areas of the UK to fund the installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Scotland is one of those areas. Aberdeen is classed as a strategic hub in Scotland’s “Plugged in Places” project and has been allocated grant funding to install EV charging infrastructure.

This tender process will be run by the Transport Strategy and Programmes Team with appropriate support being provided by the Central Procurement Unit. The tender shall be awarded on the most economically advantageous basis, and shall give consideration to price, quality of product, service levels, implementation plans, delivery and sustainability.

The tender shall be advertised via the Public Contacts (Scotland) website in order to make it available to the widest possible choice of suppliers.

The successful bidder will be awarded the opportunity to supply the electric vehicle charging infrastructure for delivery this financial year.

Discussions are currently taking place with colleagues on appropriate locations for the charges as there are minimum electrical requirements that have to be met.

The Procurement Business Partner has been consulted and supports the recommendations in the report.

The Finance Business Partner has been consulted and supports the recommendations in the report.

6. IMPACT

The “Plugged in Places” scheme has been running since 2009 across Scotland. Therefore it is anticipated that manufacturers of Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure will be aware of the scheme which should hopefully lead to considerable interest in the tender.

An EHRIA has been undertaken with the summary provided below.

In order to ensure that the infrastructure is installed in the best places, consultation has been undertaken with the local branch of the Electric Vehicle Association Scotland. As they already have practical experience of using electric vehicles in Aberdeen, they have the best working knowledge of where publically accessible points are needed. They have also confirmed that there is a requirement for publically accessible Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure.

Project Officers have attended two “E-cosse Scotland” workshops. E-cosse Scotland is a partnership of government, industry, WWF Scotland and other key stakeholders to advance wholesale adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) in Scotland and this has allowed officers to learn more about the project, the expectations of the funding providers and the needs of EV users.

The project will bring about many positive impacts. It will benefit users of EVs in the city by providing them with a greater number and variety of places to charge. It will make it more attractive for EV owners, who may otherwise have only been able to charge their vehicle at home, to travel longer distances, safe in the knowledge that they will be able to recharge in a greater number of places. The project should also help to encourage EV ownership and electric vehicle movements in the city centre instead of fossil-fuelled ones, thereby reducing the output of

NOx and PM10 production (both of which have serious health consequences) from fossil fuelled vehicles.

It has been recognised that cables, being used to connect cars to charging units, could present a trip hazard, particularly for the visually impaired, those with mobility issues and wheelchair users while an increase in the number of EVs could also prove problematic for the visually impaired or those with hearing difficulties as EVs are virtually silent. Careful siting of EV charging units, preventing the crossing of public footways, should minimise the danger of a tripping hazard while work is being undertaken at European level to overcome the “silent danger” of EVs. International standards, which have already been drawn up by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, are expected to be turned into legally binding regulations by the end of next year.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

n/a

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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