

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

---

COMMITTEE	Enterprise, Strategic Planning & Infrastructure
DATE	4 <sup>th</sup> September 2014
DIRECTOR	Gordon McIntosh
TITLE OF REPORT	Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Electro-Mobility in European Regions (HyER) and Smart Cities
REPORT NUMBER:	EPI/14/250
CHECKLIST RECEIVED	Yes

---

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is to seek approval for travel of Cllr Crockett as Convenor of ESPI Committee and an Officer to Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Electro-Mobility in European Regions (HyER) meeting the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

The report also seeks approval for travel associated with future HyER meetings.

The report seeks approval for travel for a nominated Officer to attend the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities workshop and kick-off meeting, Brussels, Belgium, 8-9<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the committee:

1. Approves the travel for Cllr Crockett and one Officer to attend the HyER meeting in Brussels, Belgium the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.
2. Approves the travel for Cllr Crockett and an officer for future HyER meetings.
3. Approves travel for a nominated Officer to attend the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities workshop and kick-off meeting in Brussels, Belgium 8-9<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- Costs for Cllr Crockett and Officer's attendance at the HyER meeting will be met from the current service travel budget. Approximate costs £1,000.
- Costs for any future travel to HyER meetings will be met from the current service travel budget.
- Costs for an Officer attendance at the Smart Cities and Communities meeting will be met from the current service travel budget. Approximate costs £500.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

##### Travel

As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.

##### Risk Management

It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters, especially those dealing with energy issues, and all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. This level of participation will help increase the understanding of the new programmes and will assist in developing the capacity to successfully develop new projects and work with other European cities that will benefit Aberdeen City.

##### Human Rights/Equality/Diversity

European Policy takes full account of the Equal Opportunities Policy of the Council.

##### Sustainability

Aberdeen City Council has a clear contribution to make to sustainable development with an emphasis on enhancing productivity through improved resource efficiency, new business opportunities in the developing market for sustainable technologies and delivering better and more efficient Council services. By attending these events, it will give Aberdeen City Council the opportunity to look at the possibilities of best practice and drawing down more funds from EU programmes to raise the quality of life through increasing economic opportunity for all on a socially and environmentally sustainable basis. Attendance at this event will help ensure Aberdeen promotes awareness as an internationally recognised energy efficiency hub and pool for generating innovative solutions.

##### Environmental

European activities are implemented in line with the aim of achieving a quality and sustainable environment.

## Social

The principles of Social Inclusion underpin European cohesion policy.

## Economic

European representation and inter-regional networking contributes to the City's overall effort to maximise opportunities and to promote its interests, both at home and overseas with the aim of creating sustainable economy and energy efficiency environment.

## 5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

### **5.1 HyER Meeting in Brussels, Belgium, 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

It is proposed Cllr Crockett as Convenor of ESPI Committee and an Officer of Aberdeen City Council attend the Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Electro-Mobility in European Regions (HyER) meeting in Brussels, Belgium the 16<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

HyER is an association which was established in collaboration with the EU Commission in 2008 and supports the deployment and uptake of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies and electro-mobility in Europe. This is in order to contribute positively to the carbon dioxide emissions reduction, environmental protection as well as economic growth and employment. HyER represents over 30 regions and cities in Europe. The association seeks to develop fact-based policy at EU, national and local level to establish robust local deployment channels and a first customer base. HyER is currently facilitating development European wide electro-mobility monitoring facility to collect data and experiences of electro-mobility projects.

EP&I Committee the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2014 approved the nomination of the Cllr Crockett to the HyER Board, as well as travel for an Officer to attend the HyER AGM in Copenhagen in June 2014.

Since the AGM in June, HyER have arranged a meeting between its members for the 16<sup>th</sup> September in Brussels. It is important to have Aberdeen City Council representation at this meeting to identify potential partners and projects for future European funding calls, particularly the 'Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Joint Undertaking' (FCH JU). This is a significant funding stream which would further the development of hydrogen technology in the Aberdeen City Region under the Hydrogen Economy Strategy 2013.

### **5.2 Future HyER Meetings**

The HyER Board members meet three times a year in Brussels, or another member location, as well as once a year via teleconference. As Aberdeen City Council is a member of HyER we

seek approval for any future travel associated with HyER meetings by Elected Members and Officers.

### **5.3 European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities**

The European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities (EIP-SCC) brings together cities, industry and citizens to improve urban life through more sustainable integrated solutions. This includes applied innovation, better planning, a more participatory approach, higher energy efficiency, better transport solutions, intelligent use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), etc.

The aim of EIP-SCC is to bring about scalable and transferable solutions to contribute to the EU's 20/20/20 climate action goals and reduce high energy consumption, green-house-gas emissions, bad air quality and congestion of roads. The Partnership also aims to overcome bottlenecks impeding the changeover to smart cities, to co-fund demonstration projects and to help coordinate existing city initiatives and projects, by pooling its resources together.

Aberdeen City Council has been invited to join the invited to join the action cluster Sustainable Districts and Built Environment and will play an important part in the common effort to build a dynamic market-place for smart city projects and solutions in Europe.

The kick-off of the action clusters and start of the implementation phase of this partnership will begin with a workshop "European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities - integrating sectors, solutions and citizens" on the 8<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels. This event is addressed at cities and regions and the two main topics are:

- funding and financing opportunities for cities,
- city commitments, financing needs and regional cooperation between cities.

This event will be followed with the kick-off meeting of the action clusters and hence the start of the implementation phase of this partnership on 9<sup>th</sup> October in Brussels. It is proposed that a nominated Officer from the External Funding team will attend the workshop and meeting to be present at initial discussions and disseminate information to ACC Officers on their return. The information and discussions from the partnership platform can be used in ACC's high profile projects and initiatives to be a 'Smarter Aberdeen'.

Several of the challenges of the Community Plan identified in the Single Outcome Agreement are also supported, such as: Leading the City, Being Informed, Getting Involved, Land Use and the Environment and Clean City, Prosperity and Jobs, and Aberdeen's Image.

#### 7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

As far as possible, measures relevant to the destination will be taken to reduce any risks in line with Council Policy.

It is important that Aberdeen is fully represented in all European matters and that all opportunities for influencing policy and the development of transnational projects for the City's benefit are grasped in order that opportunities are maximised. If this is not done the Council could be at risk of not being able to draw down European grant monies.

#### 8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

#### 9 REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Yasa Ratnayeke  
Senior Partnerships, Performance & Funding Officer  
yratnayeke@aberdeencity.gov.uk  
01224 523807