

EAST AYRSHIRE

COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP BOARD – 16 DECEMBER 2010

LOW CARBON VEHICLE PROCUREMENT SUPPORT SCHEME

Report by Head of Roads and Transportation – East Ayrshire Council

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Boards approval for the allocation of grant from the Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme and report on progress.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The First Minister announced the launch of the Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme at the 2020 Climate Change Conference on 16 June 2010. The key aims and objectives are to:

- provide a platform for low carbon vehicles to demonstrate their functionality and potential for emissions reduction;
- allow economies of scale to reduce vehicle cost via the procurement of a significant quantity of emerging vehicle technologies; and
- stimulate increased confidence in the low carbon vehicle market through public sector leadership.

- 2.2 East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership were invited to participate in the scheme with a funding allocation of £105,000 to the Partnership to be used to bridge the gap between the cost of an internal combustion engine vehicle and a low carbon alternative. Typically this equates to a difference of £20k for a car and £40k for a van, dependant upon size of vehicle, fuel type and supplier.

- 2.3 East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership responded advising that it intends to utilise its full allocation of funding and confirmation of the grant allocation of £105,000 has been received from Transport Scotland.

3. PROGRESS

- 3.1 Preliminary discussions across the Partnership have identified that East Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire and Arran are interested in taking up the offer of the gap funding to introduce new technologies to their fleets. While Coalfield Community Transport gave consideration to participating in the scheme it was not possible as the group do not have funding for a new vehicle to be able to access the gap funding.

- 3.2 East Ayrshire Council Transport Unit have been trialling various alternative low carbon vehicles to identify the most advantageous vehicles and technology to meet Partner requirements. These include both full electric vehicles and diesel/electric hybrids.
- 3.3 East Ayrshire Council's Transport Unit is currently identifying suitable vehicle replacements, whereby the LCV can be introduced to the current fleet as part of its continuous fleet replacement programme. Discussions are ongoing with NHS Ayrshire and Arran to ensure that the vehicles procured will allow the evaluation of low carbon technology in a range of operating scenarios.

4. FUNDING PROPOSALS

- 4.1 As NHS Ayrshire and Arran has the opportunity to obtain funding through the North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership and the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership it is proposed that the £105,000 allocation to the East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership is allocated 75% to East Ayrshire Council and 25% to NHS Ayrshire and Arran.
- 4.2 Transport Scotland confirmed by letter on 13 August 2010 that it is a condition of grant that vehicles are ordered and charging infrastructure is installed by 31 March 2011.
- 4.3 In addition, Transport Scotland in a follow up letter dated 30 November 2010 set out the overall terms and conditions of grant and the payment/grant claim process.

5. RECOMMENDATION

- 5.1 It is recommended that the East Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership Board:
- i) approves that the grant of £105,000 to East Ayrshire Planning Partnership for Low Carbon Vehicle Procurement Support Scheme be allocated on the basis of 75% to East Ayrshire Council and 25% to NHS Ayrshire and Arran;
 - ii) requests that the Council's Head of Roads and Transportation continues to lead on this initiative ensuring full compliance with the terms and conditions of grant; and
 - iii) otherwise notes the contents of the report.

John Bryson
Head of Roads and Transportation
East Ayrshire Council
5 December 2010