

Switched on Towns and Cities in-depth feasibility studies

Ayr (South Ayrshire) - Ayr and the neighbouring town of Prestwick, home to Glasgow Prestwick International Airport, provide the opportunity to build on the existing work that South Ayrshire has undertaken with innovative electrification projects within their fleets. The proximity to the airport highlights the importance of taxi and private hire charging infrastructure within the area and it is anticipated that the study will help South Ayrshire deliver the aspirations outlined in their recent Fleet Service Review.

Irvine (North Ayrshire) – Irvine is home to around 29% of the population of North Ayrshire and the popularity of existing charging infrastructure, in particular 50kW rapid chargers has proven that there is an appetite for electric vehicles in the region. North Ayrshire Council hopes the study can help realise the potential of EVs to mitigate against levels of nitrogen dioxide and particulates within their urban environments, leading to an improvement in air quality and public health.

Stornoway (Eilean Siar) - As an island community, situated off the north west coast of Scotland, the Outer Hebrides benefits from a significant renewable energy resource. However, the islands face a distinct set of energy challenges, and continue to be dependent on imported fuel as an energy source across a range of sectors. Innovative solutions are required to maximise the use of the local renewable resource and reduce reliance on imported energy, as the islands seek to move towards a low-carbon future. The feasibility study will help to stimulate EV adoption in and around Stornoway, looking at opportunities for battery storage to feed in to the infrastructure mix.

Arbroath (Angus) - The east coast of Scotland has been a leader in transitioning to an EV friendly transport environment, particularly with the work that the City of Dundee has carried out on taxi private hire fleets & charging hubs. Angus Council are working closely with their neighbours, to ensure that the wider region is equally EV friendly. There are plans for an EV charging hub at Orchardbank, Forfar and the study will help realise the council's aspirations and strategy for Angus to reduce its carbon footprint, becoming smarter and greener.

Perth (Perth & Kinross) – While the council have long term plans to reduce traffic in central Perth with the planned Cross Tay Link Road they have also identified that other sustainable measures will be necessary to maximise the opportunity for improving urban air quality. The study will help to explore a range of creative charging solutions including solar PV enabled hubs, on-street charging infrastructure and purpose built taxi private hire facilities. Support for these capital projects will be investigated using a range of non-capital measures including EV parking incentives and planning conditions.

Dunfermline (Fife) – Fife Council has identified the need for a feasibility study in to the forward strategy to improve EV charging infrastructure for local residents, businesses & taxi operators etc. in Dunfermline. The study will explore opportunities to assess the suitability of future charging infrastructure in the town centre and assess Fife Council's own vehicle fleet to explore complimentary measures to help meet decarbonisation

targets. The Local Authority has already implemented electric light commercial vehicles to deliver local meals on wheels which is an example of the commitment and ability of EVs to deliver a wide range of functions.

Falkirk (Falkirk Council) - Located at the start of the A9 and strategically important to the Scottish Government's Electric A9 project, the council have ambitious plans for a solar PV enabled, EV charging hub at Falkirk Stadium. As a popular commuter town to both Edinburgh and Glasgow, the study will ensure that a range of charging infrastructure is planned which meets the needs of commuters and visitors to the town alike.

Kirkintilloch (East Dunbartonshire) – As a council, East Dunbartonshire have carried out significant strategic and operational work in recent years to ensure that they are equipped to meet the future charging needs of residents. Positioned only 6 miles from the centre of Glasgow, Kirkintilloch may well be affected by the planned Low Emission Zone (LEZ), the first phase of which comes into effect on 31 December 2018. Initially the LEZ will apply to buses & taxi private hire fleets only, but in future there may be controls on other vehicle groups. The feasibility study will help ensure that East Dunbartonshire is in a well-informed position, ready to deal with an increase in EV adoption rates within the region.

Musselburgh (East Lothian) – As an important commuter town on the outskirts of Edinburgh, Musselburgh is well placed to consider the wider implications that the planned LEZ in Edinburgh city centre will have on surrounding towns. It also has its own air quality issues with the busy A1 passing straight through the town centre. The council are currently drafting their Strategy for EVs, and already have plans in place for a significant network of new charge points. They now plan to expand their already impressive number of EVs within their own fleets and the study will help identify a range of charging solutions which will meet the needs of commuters, council fleet, taxi and private hire vehicles; an EV enabled East Lothian will help realise the opportunities for managing air quality in the key arterial routes into Edinburgh.

Galashiels (Scottish Borders) – Galashiels and the conjoined towns of Tweedbank, Melrose & Newton St Boswells are popular with both tourists, businesses and residents alike. The council has ambitious plans for improving connectivity and enabling EV adoption within the region, including innovative plans for integrated smart grid & renewable energy technologies. There are many different residential and mixed use landscapes throughout the area and the study will ensure that consideration is given to on-street and taxi private hire vehicle charging requirements in addition to hub and destination charging.