

**Environment and Transport Committee  
Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lerwick  
Tuesday 14 June 2016 at 10.00 a.m.**

**Present:**

M Bell	S Coutts
R Henderson	D Ratter
D Sandison	G Robinson
G Smith	T Smith
J Wills	

**Apologies:**

M Stout

**In Attendance (Officers):**

M Sandison, Director of Infrastructure Services  
M Lisk, Team Leader – Carbon Management  
P Wishart, Solicitor  
C Anderson, Senior Communications Officer  
L Gair, Committee Officer

**Chair:**

Mr Coutts, Vice-Chair of the Committee, presided.

**Circular:**

The circular calling the meeting was held as read.

**Declarations of Interests**

None

**Minutes**

The Committee approved the minutes of the meetings held on (i) 12 April 2016 on the motion of Mr Robinson seconded by Mr Henderson; and (ii) 23 May 2016 on the motion of Mr Sandison seconded by Mr Robinson.

**16/16     Funding Applications (a) Home Energy Efficiency and (b) Scottish Energy Efficiency Programme Pathfinder Bids**

The Committee noted a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (ISD-09-16-F2), which notified of the two funding bids to the Home Energy Efficiency Programme: Area Based Scheme (HEEPS:ABS) and Scottish Energy Efficiency Programme: Pathfinder Programme (SEEP).

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and explained the circumstances behind the need to use emergency powers on this occasion.

Members welcomed the report. In responding to questions, the Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the Scottish Government indicated that they see larger properties as being owned by people on higher income therefore the Council tax bands and the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) ratings are limiting factors for larger properties that are not eligible.

*(Dr Wills declared an interest as Vice-Chair of the Shetland Charitable Trust and advised that he would take no part in this item.)*

Reference was made to the availability of contractors to carry out work and the Director of Infrastructure Services explained that it had been difficult to attract builders to undertake the certification required. She explained the efforts made to take work in house where it was then possible to sub-contract externally. She said that this had been successful and more measures had been applied to properties in Shetland than in other Local Authorities and the intention was to make it as accessible to as many people as possible. The Team Leader – Carbon Management confirmed that this amounted to approximately 140 properties, year to date, and between 400-500 properties in the last 4 years.

The Director of Infrastructure Services explained that the scheme was being promoted through the Council and work with GP's and health visitors. She advised that the Scottish Government, Warmer Homes Grant Scheme, can also refer property owners to the Council as well as the Citizens Advice Bureau who assist individuals to access the right benefits.

The Director of Infrastructure Services responded to further questions confirming how joint applications can be made by those living in flats and above commercial properties. She explained that the level of grant available to Shetland householders changed following discussions with the Scottish Government who took into account the uniqueness of Shetland's housing stock. She explained how the grant is used to ensure that more money is allocated to help people get out of fuel poverty. She stressed the importance of continuing to lobby the Scottish and UK Governments on the limits placed on grant schemes because even with the increased grant maximum many houses needed more work to them to make them energy efficient than the grant could pay for.

Members noted that in house knowledge is used to support the delivery of the grant, in terms of design and technical matters, but in some cases during the design process it is found that more money is needed than what is available.

#### **Decision:**

The Environment and Transport Committee noted that two bids, that were approved for submission under delegated authority.

#### **17/16 Low Carbon Transport – Electric Vehicle Charging Points Charge Costs**

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Infrastructure Services (EO-02-16-F), which sought approval for the charges to be levied at all publicly owned and operated Electric Vehicle (EV) Charge Points throughout Shetland.

The Director of Infrastructure Services introduced the report and explained the charges presented therein.

In responding to questions, Members were advised that the fastest charging point is at Ulsta and the others outside Lerwick are medium rate chargers with the longer rate charges being available Lerwick. The Team Leader – Carbon Management advised that next year's bid to the Scottish Government would include a charging point in Bressay and she reported on an EU project that would look at off grid charging.

Some discussion took place around the cost of erecting private wind turbines and the cost for households to construct and site a private car in house charging point. It was noted however that grants are available to reduce the costs involved.

The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that the Government was clearly promoting the shift to electric vehicles. She said that there had been success in applying for funding so far and infrastructure had now been committed, and that funding bids can be submitted year on year for extending existing schemes. The Director of Infrastructure Services also explained that not all Local Authorities charge for electricity used, and that the objectives for some Local Authorities not charging was to meet air quality targets, which is not as big an issue in Shetland.

Reference was made to private charging points not being included on the map. The Director of Infrastructure Services advised that unless private owners sign up, their unit will not appear on the map as the charging points are not generally accessible to everyone. She said that it would be possible to support private units to make more charging points available for public use.

Mr Sandison moved that the Committee approve the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Mr G Smith.

Decision:

The Environment and Transport Committee **RECOMMENDED** that the Council resolve to approve the following charges (excluding VAT), to be levied at all EV points throughout Shetland operated by the Council, on a cost neutral basis:

Standard Charger £5.53 (per full charge)

Fast Charger £3.75 (per full charge)

Rapid Charger £4.68 (per full charge)

This charge will be incorporated into the Income Charges annual review as part of the budget setting process.

The meeting concluded at 10.30am.

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Chair