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| Report To: | CABINET | Date: | 19 JULY 2021 |
| Heading: | SUCCESSFUL APPLICATION TO THE INFRASTRUCTURE SOLUTIONS FOR ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES COMPETITION | | |
| Portfolio Holder: | CLLR SAMANTHA DEAKIN, PARKS, TOWN CENTRES AND NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES | | |
| Ward/s: | ALL WARDS | | |
| Key Decision: | NO | | |
| Subject to Call-In: | NO | | |

Purpose of Report

To notify Cabinet of the successful application to the Infrastructure Solutions for Zero Emission Vehicles competition funded by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) in partnership with Innovate UK.

This paper outlines the background and what it means for Ashfield District Council following its successful application to the Infrastructure Solutions for Zero Emission Vehicles competition, specifically on an integrated platform for Electric Vehicle (EV) fleet transition.

Recommendation(s)

- 1) Cabinet recommends acceptance of the funding of £10,391.**

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The project will support the Council's objective within its Corporate Plan to reduce the carbon footprint from its own operations. As well as funding to help trial a vehicle it will also help provide the necessary infrastructure needed to allow the Council to electrify its fleet.

Alternative Options Considered

The Council could have chosen to not go ahead with the bid and can still reject the offer of funding, however this has been rejected as the project poses little risk to the Authority, both financially and reputationally. **Not recommended.**

Detailed Information

Background

Ashfield District Council received notification that its joint application to the Infrastructure Solutions for Zero Emission Vehicles competition had been successful.

The Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), in partnership with Innovate UK, works across government to support the transition to zero emission vehicles (ZEVs). They provide support for the take-up of plug in vehicles, as well as funding to support the rollout of charge-point infrastructure across the UK. Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation which is investing up to £25 million in the best game-changing and commercially viable innovative ideas.

The project partners are Cleanergy EV Ltd, DG:Cities, Royal Borough of Greenwich and Nottingham City Council, with Ashfield District Council w receiving £10,391.

Cleanergy is a rapidly growing Wales-based sustainable energy company and is the lead organisation for the project. They focus on product development and implementation. DG:Cities, an arm length organisation set up by the Royal Borough of Greenwich whose role will be to support the project in stakeholder engagement and trial delivery/evaluation, while Ashfield and the other Local Authorities will act as client-testers for the product.

The aim of the project is to provide a single system that enables EV fleet management to account for vehicle data (e.g. charge levels) as well as vehicle allocation and task scheduling to drivers. This system will allow fleet managers to do the following two things for the first time:

- Assign vehicles to tasks based on current charge levels and expected consumption
- Assign EV chargers to vehicles (at the depot or off-site), based on charger speed and grid availability as well as upcoming tasks for the next days.

The project will supplement the work that has already taken place with Nottingham City Council's 'Go ultralow Nottingham' scheme and BP Chargemaster, which saw Ashfield install four vehicle charging stations at Piggins Croft Hucknall, Urban Road Kirkby, New Street Sutton and Kings Mill reservoir Sutton.

What does this mean for Ashfield?

As well as receiving funding to hire a fully electric transit size vehicle for the duration of the project (8 months), Ashfield will receive and retain a new charge point at the Council's Sutton depot, along with the telematic devices that will be purchased as part of the project.

Ashfield will also receive support to fully review and analyse its current fleet to understand its environmental performance and what reduction in CO2 emissions could be achieved through rapid electrification. It will also identify barriers and then find the necessary solutions to help support Ashfield's move to a low emission fleet ahead of other neighbouring Districts. If the Authority went out for this support separately the cost would be over £13,000 for this support alone, however there will be significant benefits to working with the Partners through shared expertise and knowledge which would otherwise be unavailable to the Council.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The project supports the Council's ambition to reduce its carbon footprint from its own operations, as part of its Cleaner and Greener vision.

Legal:

There are no legal issues identified in the report, a further report will be completed on the acceptance of the collaboration agreement that is needed to allow for the project to commence. Legal services will provide support and advice in relation to any agreements which need to be entered into.

Finance:

| Budget Area | Implication |
|---|--|
| General Fund – Revenue Budget | The project will require officer time, however this will be managed within existing approved staff budgets. |
| General Fund – Capital Programme | There are currently no direct financial implications – however, the project will support the lease of a suitable electric vehicle for the length of the project and a review will take place to explore if it is possible (and financially viable) to extend the lease, replacing fossil fuelled vehicles. |
| Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget | n/a |
| Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme | n/a |

Risk:

| Risk | Mitigation |
|--|---|
| Unable to find a suitable location for a charging unit | The depot has a number of areas that can be used to locate a charging unit as well as a dedicated car parking space |
| The electric vehicle is unsuitable | Ashfield District Council uses a wide range of vehicles across its services. A number of roles have already been identified for this vehicle that will ensure that it's fully trialled. |
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Human Resources:

There are no implications for this report.

Equalities:

There are no implications for this report.

Other Implications:

A media statement will be made following approval of this report and will form the basis of future press and social media campaigns.

Reason(s) for Urgency

Not applicable

Reason(s) for Exemption

Not applicable

Background Papers

Not applicable

Report Author and Contact Officer

Alastair Blunkett

SERVICE MANAGER – NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ENVIRONMENT

alastair.blunkett@ashfield.gov.uk

01623 450000