Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Infrastructure in the East of England

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Purpose of report:

- To provide an update to members on progress with the Government’s ‘plugged in places’ initiative in the East of England; and
- To provide an update to members on progress of the agreed activities (network and conference) made at the previous RTF meeting held in June 2012.

Recommendation:

1. Note the contents of this report and the verbal update provided at the meeting; and
2. Provide feedback regarding activities and input if required.

1 Background

1.1 The Forum has previously received papers and presentations from representatives of EEDA and EValu8 Transport Innovations Ltd (EValu8) on the EValu8 ‘plugged in places’ (PIP) initiative in the East of England and so members will already be aware of much of the background to this project.

1.2 In summary, however, the project:

- is part of a wider £30 million government initiative to provide match-funding for the installation of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) and has a total value of around £7 million, with up to £2.9 million match-funding from government, with the rest coming from EEDA, the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and match funding commitments from private and public sector partners for charging posts;

- is developing a network of EV charging points across the East of England composed of up to 1,200 post-mounted charging points, 400 home charging points, installations in 500 ‘EV-ready’ Eco-Homes, and 8 rapid chargers;

- this network, known as Source East (see http://www.souceeast.net/), will give member drivers unlimited access to charging points in the network. The project is being delivered by EValu8, a not-for-profit company set up by the University of Hertfordshire to manage the delivery of EValu8 projects following the proposed closure of EEDA, who led on the early stages of the project;
• EValu8 will fund 50% of eligible costs for the installation of up to 600 double-headed charging posts (1,200 charging points) across the East of England, but can now fund 75% of eligible costs for installations by Local Authorities.

1.3 Updates regarding the PIP initiative:

• Current number of charging posts in network has increased to over 250 charging points.

• The PIP initiative funding will shortly expire in March 2013.

• OLEV have just announced that the PIP initiative has increased funding for public authorities (Government Departments and their agencies, legislative bodies, the armed forces, local government, NHS, maintained schools, further and higher education institutions and the emergency services) to 75% of eligible costs for the installation double-headed charging posts.

• EValu8 have bid to OLEV for further funding to extend the initiative to fund specific projects around EVs and EV charging posts.

1.4 A verbal update on progress to date with the charging network, and EValu8’s wider work, will be provided at the meeting.

2 Update on ‘Low Carbon Vehicle Network’ for the East of England

2.1 Following discussions and the resulting agreed proposal of the establishment of an East of England membership ‘Low Carbon Vehicle’ network, EValu8 are:

• providing a regular e-briefing in the form of a newsletter on headline trends in the EV arena relevant to the LTAs including updates on Government policy, news on new vehicles and technological development, progress on the expanding Source East network including usage of posts by area, and identification of funding opportunities;

• building on their social media activity as a forum for information exchange on EVs;

• investigating creating a section of the EValu8 website specifically dedicated to network members.

3 Update regarding proposed Conference on Electric Vehicles for RTF and other key stakeholders

3.1 Following discussions and the resulting agreed proposal of holding a conference for RTF members and other key stakeholders on the subject of the installation of the recharging network, EVs and low carbon transport, EValu8 are:
• searching for suitable venues within the East of England, specifically one which can offer easy access to an EV charging post as well as space to accommodate several ‘display’ EVs. A shortlist has now been created with some possible dates reserved

• drafted conference key note speakers and over all schedule. Key speakers will ideally include an MP relating to transport or Innovation, a representative from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV), EValu8, Future Transport Systems and a representative from the motor industry;

• started to draft promotional material to ensure high awareness amongst key stakeholders;

• started to draft the invitee list.

4 In Summary

4.1 The views of RTF members, on the activities around the establishment of a ‘Low Carbon Vehicle’ Network and the conference for RTF members and key stakeholders, are welcomed.

For further information on the work of EValu8, including details on the financial support available, please contact the EValu8 team at info@evalu8-ti.org.uk or call 01707 284742. Further information, including answers to a large number of ‘FAQs’, is also available at our website http://www.evalu8-ti.org.uk/.