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

Recommendation:

1. Note the contents of this report and the verbal update provided at the meeting;
2. Provide feedback regarding activities and input if required – particularly responses to opportunities for 2013/14 funding.

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:

- as part of a wider £30 million government initiative to provide match-funding for the installation of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) and developing a network of EV charging points across the East of England
- this network, known as Source East (see [http://www.sourceeast.net/](http://www.sourceeast.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;

2 Updates regarding the PIP initiative:

- By the end of June (which is the end of the slippage period for post installations under phase one of the Plugged in Places project), it is
expected that there will be in the region of 400 charging points available in the region, with over 170 home charge units

- Local authorities have been informed of the mechanism to reclaim the electricity costs through the sponsorship deal with Green Energy UK. Few claims have currently been made so members are urged to respond accordingly

- Within the same document, plans to make the option to charge for use of the posts are explained, along with suggested fees. Again, few local authorities have expressed their intentions however those who have so far have largely opted to keep the posts available for free, particularly until the end of the year at which point it will be reviewed again. Responses from the rest of the group are sought as soon as possible

1.4 Following discussion on information available on EVs and availability maps, marketing documents and information has been shared with RTF members, along with signposts to other organisations and sites within the market to help share the knowledge.

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

3 Update on ‘Low Carbon Vehicle’ conference and network

3.1 Following discussions and the resulting agreed proposal of the establishment of an East of England ‘Low Carbon Vehicle’ conference and network EValu8 have:

- By the meeting, EValu8 will have delivered the conference. A verbal update will be given at the meeting but current figures show over 100 delegates registered

- Added members to the EValu8 monthly newsletter to keep you up to date with developments in the market and new funding offers

- Extended the use of social media and particularly Twitter to disseminate information. Our address is @EValu8TI

- Conference attendees and other core stakeholders to form initial membership of Low Carbon Vehicle Network for East of England. A verbal update will be given on our current thoughts for programme of activity and determine best communication routes for the group

4 Funding update

4.1 As raised in the last report, 2013/14 funding is still available for local authorities for:

- Limited number of new fast charging points and installation, primarily those linked with other funding bids – funded at 75%
• 75% funding for rapid chargers and installation – seeking expressions of interest and suggested sites and on key routes within your region
• Funding for car club and e-mobility hub charging infrastructure
• 25% funding for SMEs to install charging infrastructure and £1000 innovation vouchers

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/.