



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

10th NOVEMBER 2021

**UPDATE REPORT ON THE CARDIFF CAPITAL REGION ULEV STRATEGY
AND PROGRESS**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE ESTATES IN DISCUSSION
WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE SERVICES**

Author(s): David Powell, Director of Corporate Estates

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is for information only to provide an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the work underway by the Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) with their Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) strategy and progress.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet Steering Group;

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report as an update on the wider regional approach to developing a ULEV strategy

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The contents of this report provides information on progress with regards to progressing ULEV strategy at a regional level.

4. **BACKGROUND AND UPDATE**

- 4.1 In September 2021 the CCR Cabinet received a report with a ULEV strategy for consideration together with an update on the ULEV programme to date. Sections of the report have been reproduced here by kind permission of the CCR.
- 4.2 In 2019, Cenex was commissioned to prepare a draft ULEV Strategy for the CCR.
- 4.3 Further commissions included a Metro Plus ULEV Strategy and a ULEV Taxi Strategy, both of which were endorsed by the RTA in 2019. However, the draft CCR ULEV Strategy (for all modes of transport) was not considered by the Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Board until its meeting on 9th September 2021 following an update by Cenex, of the original draft, taking into account progress made since the draft was originally produced. The updated draft Strategy can be found at Appendix 1.
- 4.4 WG has awarded Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council up to £4,814,095 in response to a regional bid submitted to deliver schemes within the ULEV Transformation proposal identified through the RTA. This is a one-year investment fund and all works need to be completed by 31st March 2022.
- 4.5 The funding being made available is to assist the Welsh Government transform the network to ULEV and help them reach their targets of zero emissions from buses and taxis by 2028. The Grant award specifically states that the purpose of the funding is for the following:

Taxi ULEV Infrastructure	Rapid chargers for taxis to include grid reinforcement costs, project management, research, strategy and planning of the installation, health and safety and auditing Zero emission taxi pilot scheme – operational costs	£1,250,000 £573,594 (2021/22 costs)
Public Use ULEV	Infrastructure ULEV Infrastructure for on-street / car parks / transport hubs (minimum 159 sites)	£2,870,501
ULEV Delivery Partner	To assist with the delivery of the Programme	£50,000

Electric Vehicle (EV) Roadshow with Drive and Ride Opportunities	Trade engagement event including ride and drives and newsletters	£70,000
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- 4.6 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is the lead authority and is managing the ULEV Transformation Fund element with the RTA providing leadership and overall management of the project.
- 4.7 Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council is responsible for reporting quarterly to WG on the LTF spend.
- 4.8 It should be noted that the ULEV plan complements and fits with wider local initiatives in the region for ULEV transformation and does not displace or affect these. It provides additionality to local activity and all plans are subject to local consultation and roll-out – i.e. as with the work to date on charging stations, Taxi ‘try before you buy’ and car parking infrastructure and the Metro Plus programme.

5. CCR ULEV DELIVERY

- 5.1 Progress to date includes WSP Consultancy contracted to assist in delivery of the programme funded through WGs ULEV Transformation Fund.
- 5.2 The work carried out to date includes:
- ULEV – Provision of Taxi Infrastructure 34 chargers at 31 sites were identified by the Local Authorities and form the basis of a tender awarded to SWARCO on 2nd February 2021. The project is due to be completed within the next few weeks. The award of contract also included a Concession agreement with SWARCO to maintain and manage the chargers for 5 years with an additional 1+1+1 option. A return on investment has been agreed under a profit share that increases over the period of the contract.
 - ULEV – Provision of Taxis for ‘Try Before You Buy Scheme’ - 3 Year Pilot Project 44 wheel chair accessible 100% electric vehicles were purchased in 2020/21 to operate a try before you buy scheme over the next 3 years. As part of the grant award for 2021/22, it was intended to procure a Management company to manage delivery of the try before you buy scheme. However, only two tender bids were received and neither met the minimum criteria to enable a contract to be awarded. It is now intended to deliver the management of the scheme in-house, and work is currently being undertaken to progress this way forward. Tenders were also invited to manage a Lease Hire Scheme for Cardiff Council (which could potentially expand to the Region longer term and is funded by WG’s Clean Air Fund), and both of these programmes will closely align and will be managed under the same programme.
 - ULEV – Provision of Public Use Charging Infrastructure 159 sites have been identified throughout the region, and costed for on street / car

parks / transport hubs. Tenders were issued and 7 submissions have been received and evaluated. The contract will be awarded under a concession arrangement identical to that of the taxi infrastructure, with a share in profit, and an All Wales Framework has been included within the tender to enable other public bodies (other regions within Wales, TFW and WG) to deliver future infrastructure under this framework.

- ULEV – Provision of Bus Use Charging Infrastructure 15 sites have been identified throughout the region and costed at transport hubs. The bid submitted to WG was also included for this delivery in 2021/22, but the bid has not been successful yet.

6. CCR FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

- 6.1 To enable the CCR to consider what it will take to transition the school transport network, Cenex has been commissioned to consider the current school transport fleet within the Region, the age and size of the fleet, the distances travelled on the contracts, and the emissions of the existing fleet. This will enable an assessment to be made of how to school transport fleet is currently adding to emissions of transport and what interventions are required to assist their transition to net zero. The results of the study, along with any recommendations, will be brought to a future meeting early in 2022 for consideration by Members.
- 6.2 There are also options to carry out a similar exercise for the public bus network later in the year.
- 6.3 A public fleet challenge is also being progressed and will be the subject of a separate report to a future meeting.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 As this report is for information only and relates to the work of the CCR, an Equality and Diversity Implications review has not been undertaken on this occasion.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As this report is for information only and relates to the work of the CCR, a Welsh Language Implications review has not been undertaken on this occasion.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 All consultation for the CCR ULEV Strategy was undertaken by the CCR.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

10.1 There are no financial implications with regards to this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 There are no legal implications aligned to this report

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

12.1 The future actions that arise as a result of the future recommendations of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group report will be considered by the Council's Cabinet and it will take full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

13. CONCLUSION

13.1 This report is for information only and provides an update to the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group with regards to the work underway by the Cardiff Capital Region with their Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) strategy and progress.

Contact Officer: David Powell 01443 424144

Appendix 1

Draft ULEV Strategy (Cenex)