

Decarbonising the city

Case study 4/5

ELECTRIC REVOLUTION



SYNOPSIS

Greater Manchester has won a bid to be one of the first places in the country to bring eco-friendly electric cars to its streets. We now have £4 million from the Government's Plugged in Places programme (matched by £4 million by the partners) to install a network of more than 400 plug-in points that allow motorists to charge battery-powered cars.

This scheme has great potential – around 15% of UK vehicles are right here in the North West and the region has the second largest automotive manufacturing sector in the country. Home to over 2.5 million people, and the largest and fastest growing economy outside of London, representing more than £42 billion of the UK GVA, Manchester is the regional centre for finance, commerce, retail, culture and leisure; home to a major international airport; and world-class universities, with one of the largest student populations in Europe.

SCALE OF INVESTMENT

The initial scheme involves the installation of over 300 fast charging units and five rapid charging units during the initial two year period.

These initial costs are to be funded in part from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) Capital Grant of approximately £3.4 million and a match funding contribution of £3.4 million.

WIDER BENEFITS

There are significant benefits to supporting the development of the electric vehicle sector. These include the reduction of carbon emissions and noise pollution, improved air quality, reduced vehicle maintenance and servicing costs, and the growth and development of a new supply chain, leading to more employment opportunities across Greater Manchester.

PARTNERS

Key to the scheme is the support from the public sector, with all ten local authorities within Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA) committed to its goals.

Private sector partners and investors will be seeking to use the revenue generated through the use of the network of charging points to provide a revenue stream for securing further capital investment.

The electric vehicles scheme has the support of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce and the Greater Manchester Business Leadership Council as well as individual business leaders and we will be continuing to develop the company with our Local Enterprise Partnership.

DELIVERY

The private sector led Manchester Electric Car Company (MECC) will be installing the electric vehicle charging infrastructure across Greater Manchester, as well as leasing, renting and selling electric vehicles and supplying them with electricity.

The initial scheme will see 300 fast charging units and five rapid charging units installed during the first two years. The project will also encompass the promotion and creation of a fleet of electric vehicles, to encourage take-up and create extra opportunities for investment.

Greater Manchester is also the first to use portable, preassembled Outlets to display, sell, charge and maintain the electric vehicles and a Smartcard system to provide access to power from the charging points.

Standardisation of the market across the UK for both charging points and vehicles will allow investors to be sure that the opportunities available in Greater Manchester are consistent with those elsewhere.

CONTACT

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