

Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity
Ministear an Àiteachais agus Ceangal
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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
The Scottish Parliament
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31 July 2025

Dear Convener,

You will be interested to note the launch of a further round of the Plugged-in-Communities Fund that is to be made available to our community transport operators in this financial year 2025-26.

The Plugged-in Communities Grant Fund supports community transport operators in Scotland to purchase zero emission community transport vehicles (including wheelchair accessible vehicles) and the associated charging infrastructure.

The Scottish Government understands the importance that community transport plays in serving and providing support to communities across Scotland. Ensuring a Just Transition and that no one is left behind as we transition to becoming a Net Zero nation. That is why we have significantly increased the funding available from £650,000 in 2024-25, to £4 million in capital funding for 2025-26.

I have also made some changes to the eligibility for the fund that I hope you agree are beneficial. These include opening the fund up to vehicles required for new routes, and increasing the number of vehicles that can be funded per organisation over the history of the fund from one to five. The fund will continue to be administered by the Energy Saving Trust, who will support and guide applicants through the process. These measures will support community transport operators to expand and provide more services to the communities that need them, particularly in rural areas where transport options can be limited.

I would be grateful if you could bring the launch of this fund and the increase in funding to the attention of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee.

Yours sincerely,

JIM FAIRLIE

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