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Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Fund

Information Pack
2023-2025



Contents

About LEVI		Summary	12
<u>LEVI overview</u>	4	Application process	13
<u>LEVI objectives</u>	5	Assessment criteria	14
About the capability fund		<u>Approved proposals</u>	15
<u>Capability fund overview</u>	7	<u>Evidence required</u>	16
<u>Allocation</u>	8	<u>Ineligible proposals</u>	17
<u>Summary of funding available</u>	9	Reporting	
<u>The Support Body</u>	10	Reporting	19
Application process			

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About LEVI



LEVI overview

The LEVI Fund aims to deliver a step-change in the deployment of local, primarily low power, on-street electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across England.

The scheme will support local authorities to work with industry and transform the availability of charging infrastructure for drivers without off-street parking.

LEVI objectives



The LEVI Fund aims to deliver a step-change in the deployment of local, primarily low power on-street charging infrastructure across England.



The Fund also aims to accelerate the commercialisation of, and investment in, the local charging infrastructure sector.

In August 2022, **£10m** was awarded to **nine local authorities** who applied to the LEVI pilot scheme, funding **1,038 chargepoints**.

In February 2023, the LEVI pilot scheme was expanded. In total, there was **£22m of funding** for the pilot areas is supported by an additional **£17m of private funding**, and **£2m from public funds** across **19 local authorities**.

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About the Capability Fund



Capability fund overview

The LEVI Capability Fund makes available resource funding to Tier 1 authorities in England, to increase local authority capacity and capability for the planning and delivery of EV infrastructure. The Capability Fund will be flexible in its use but could include the funding the staff needed to deliver these projects and the supporting knowledge to help them succeed.

The fund's aims are:

1

Increase the capacity and capability of every Tier 1 local authority to plan and deliver EV infrastructure.

2

Enable every Tier 1 local authority to have a published EV infrastructure strategy.

3

Enable every Tier 1 local authority to take advantage of the LEVI capital fund.



Capability fund – detailed objectives

- Help enable strategic local provision of public EV charging ahead of need and promote an equitable EV charging experience for those without off-street parking.
- Leverage additional private sector investment and promote sustainable and innovative commercial arrangements to enable delivery of local chargepoint projects that would not occur in the near-term without public support.
- Increase consumer confidence in transitioning to EVs across England, ensuring increased uptake across regions.
- Ensure local authorities are equipped to access and deliver value for money for public capital funding, but moreover maximise private sector funding – delivering business models and technologies that meet the changing needs of local residents.
- Help establish a lasting legacy of capacity and effectiveness within local authorities across England, to ensure local charging needs are considered and met in the context of the 2030 phase out and wider net-zero needs.

Allocation

The funding is allocated to Tier 1 authorities using a soft data led allocation model.

This means funding will be made available to county councils, unitary authorities, and combined authorities for their areas.

This allocation model is based on a variety of factors, including percentage of households without off-street parking, the average indices of multiple deprivation score, average rurality, and existing resource dedicated to EV infrastructure delivery.

There is bespoke solution for London with Transport for London and London Councils.

Summary of funding available



£8 million capability funding is available



It is available to **tier 1 local authorities in England**, including Combined Authorities on behalf of their regions



It can be used to **hire new officers** to work in EV infrastructure, for example

The Support Body

Contact the Support Body by emailing LEVI@est.org.uk

The LEVI Support Body will provide ongoing assistance. It includes:



Energy Saving Trust provides programme management support



Cenex provides technical expertise



PA Consulting provides commercial expertise

Local authorities can use these tools to assist their LEVI applications and electric vehicle infrastructure plans.

LEVI Portal: Online platform for local authorities to apply for LEVI, access guidance and support, and provide ongoing reporting.

NEVIS Service: Provides insights for each local authority area to inform and plan for chargepoint deployment.

Knowledge Repository: A central source of information for local authorities to access.

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Application process



Summary

At the outset eligible local authorities will be sent:

- Confirmation of their allocation
- Proforma application form – to evidence how they will use funding
- Eligibility criteria: to inform them how to meet funding criteria
- MoU and Grant Determination Letter to sign and return

In order to access their allocation, Local authorities will need to complete and submit the proforma application form, receiving help from the Support Body if necessary.

This proposal should be emailed to levi@est.org.uk with the following information:

The email subject should be: LEVI Capability Fund – [local authority name]

The email must contain:

- contact details of council officer
- name of local authority
- address
- bank details (including VAT and DUNS numbers)

Application process

21 February
2023

Local authorities
provided with proforma
and eligibility criteria

10 March
2023

Local authorities
complete and submit
application to Support
Body

Rolling

Support Body assesses
applications and asks for
further evidence where
necessary

Support Body submits
applications to DfT

By end of
March 2023

DfT makes grant
payments by end of FY

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Assessment criteria



Approved proposals

Proposals which meet this criteria will be approved.

- Hiring of new officers (or internal transfers, extension of current staff, etc.) to work in: EV infrastructure strategy and procurement
- These can either be specific full-time roles or spread across multiple teams (e.g. planning, transport).
- Activities can include:
 - Project planning for strategy and delivery
 - Commercial activity (e.g. procurement or contract management)
 - Internal coordination of activities / streamlining processes
 - External engagement with other organisations to deliver infrastructure, promote collaboration on schemes **including Tier-2 and adjacent LAs.**
 - Public comms to raise awareness and buy-in of EV infrastructure

Evidence required

Proposals which include, or are entirely comprised of “Amber” criteria will need further evidence.

- If LAs are satisfied with their resource, evidence of this to demonstrate suitability of using funding elsewhere.
- Consultants on an exceptional basis, for example where the LA already has sufficient resource, and would use consultants to facilitate a step change in chargepoint rollout.
 - In this instance, the expectation would be to share learnings with the **LEVI Support Body**.
- Funding for discreet pieces of work (e.g. a project operated externally to generate data to inform site selection)
- External training costs (evidence of what it will include, justification for why it is needed and links to objectives).

Ineligible proposals

Proposals which include, or are entirely comprised of “Red” or ineligible costs criteria will not be approved by OZEV.

- Fully-consultant led model (as the priority of the capability fund is to deliver a lasting capacity across a local authority, beyond the funded period).
- Sub-contracting work to CPOs (e.g. project management costs) is permitted, but won't be funded.
- DNO quote costs.
- The use of resource funding on any transport or decarbonisation activity that is not related to EV infrastructure.

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Reporting



Reporting

After receiving funding, local authorities will need to provide quarterly reporting through the LEVI portal:

- Resource working on EV infrastructure
- Progress against objectives
- Internal and external stakeholder engagement
- Risks and barriers

And annual reporting through the portal:

- Progress on EV strategy
- Any proposed changes to resource arrangements
- New objectives/change in objectives

Local authorities will be contacted ahead of when information is required.

Data / information requirements

Local authorities will need to provide the following data at the specified times. Local authorities will be contacted ahead of when the information will be required.

Pre-award in their proforma

- Contact details
- Total funding request
- Current resource for EV infrastructure planning and delivery
- Proposed resource arrangements after funding
- Objectives for funding
- Supplementary utilisation for funding

Quarterly post-award in the portal*

- Resource working on EV infrastructure
- Progress against objectives
- Internal and external stakeholder engagement
- Risks/barriers

Annual post-award in the portal*

- Progress on EV strategy
- Any proposed changes to resource arrangements
- Fresh objectives/change in objectives from previous financial year

* More information will follow on the LEVI Portal, which will be launched in early 2023