

---

**Report to:** Transport Committee

**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**Subject:** **West Yorkshire Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot**

---

**Director:** Liz Hunter, Interim Director of Policy and Strategy

**Author:** Roseanna Brett-Davis, Policy Officer

---

Is this a key decision?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for call-in by Scrutiny?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information or appendices?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state paragraph number of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1:	
Are there implications for equality and diversity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

## 1. Purpose of this Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Transport Committee with an overview of the developing West Yorkshire Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot bid proposal and to request that the Transport Committee approves the submission of the bid and delegates the final submission to the Managing Director in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of the Transport Committee in June 2022.

## 2. Information

### **Background**

#### Context

- 1.2 Transport is now the UK's largest carbon emitting sector, and 91% of those emissions come from road transport. The UK Government has committed to net zero emissions by 2050, with the sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles ended by 2030 and for all new cars and vans to be fully zero emission at the tailpipe by 2035. It is expected there will need to be around 300,000 public chargepoints as a minimum in the UK to meet this need. Currently, there are around 29,600 UK public chargepoints.

- 1.3 The Combined Authority formally declared a climate emergency on 27 June 2019 and, in consultations with partners, strengthened the city region's ambition to become net zero-carbon by 2038. To meet our carbon reduction targets significant increase in uptake of electric vehicles is required. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021 – 2024 set a commitment to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle charging points across the region with a focus on ensuring equity in provision.
- 1.4 A range of public EV charging infrastructure schemes have already been delivered by the Combined Authority and our Partners, includes the ULEV taxi scheme, delivering over 100 charging points across the region for taxis and public use, alongside additional schemes to deliver public charging at sites such as council owned car parks.

### **Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot Funding**

- 1.5 On 25<sup>th</sup> March the Government published '[Taking Charge: the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy](#)' which sets out the governments strategic approach to delivering charging infrastructure out to 2030 to remove potential charging infrastructure barrier and accelerate the pace of adoption. The strategy recognises that the majority of drivers will do most of their charging at home, overnight, and as such focuses interventions on public chargepoints for two main purposes: to enable long distance journeys, and to support those without off-street parking.
- 1.6 Alongside the national electric vehicle infrastructure strategy, the Government announced the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund, a £450m capital funding scheme intended to 'accelerate commercialisation of local, close to home charging', focusing on supporting charging opportunities for residents without on-street charging by leveraging private investment.
- 1.7 In advance of the full fund release, a £10 million pilot competition has been launched, which will fund between 3 and 8 projects to test the most effective means of supporting local authorities procuring chargepoint deployment by trialling different delivery mechanisms, business models and technologies.
- 1.8 The conditions of the funding require that projects must:
- support the transition to EV use in a local area, with a particular focus on provision for those without off-street parking
  - provide an improvement in accessible EV charging provision that would not otherwise be met by current or planned EV chargepoint infrastructure
  - show innovation – this could be either technical or commercial innovation
- 1.9 The application deadline for proposal is 17<sup>th</sup> June.

### **West Yorkshire LEVI Pilot Proposal**

- 1.10 In collaboration with District Partners, a West Yorkshire LEVI Pilot Scheme proposal is being developed with the intention of introducing innovative

residential charging hubs to accelerate the commercialisation of close to home charging and scale up local projects targeted at residents without off-street parking. The pilot scheme is being designed to complement the EV infrastructure schemes planned through the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements, offering opportunities to expand the programme and trial technologies and delivery models in advance of wider rollout.

- 1.11 Engagement with EV infrastructure suppliers is ongoing to explore technology and delivery options to provide optimum charging solutions for West Yorkshire residents and leverage private sector investment in line with the funding requirements.
- 1.12 Projects under consideration include on-street charging facilities, community charging hubs (including rural provision and social housing hubs) and shared charging assets (e.g. car club and community use sites).
- 1.13 Ensuring EV infrastructure meets the needs of local communities, offers equity of access and contributes positively to the streetscape are key considerations of the West Yorkshire pilot scheme. Schemes will look to introduce social value through design and procurement by ensuring fair prices, equal access, and by delivering community assets. The project will focus on fast chargers which represent a highly efficient charging method, in terms of installation costs, user prices, and balancing grid load (because charging load can be spread more evenly across 24hr periods).
- 1.14 Sites targeted for the West Yorkshire LEVI fund are under review with partners but will be drawn from across the region. To meet the terms of the funding, the majority of locations will be on-street or on sites close to residential areas in location with higher densities of housing without access to off-street parking. The West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy Study carried out in 2021 identified a range of priority locations for early EV infrastructure investment considering strategic importance, demand, grid capacity and gaps in provision. This list of priority sites is being reviewed in accordance with LEVI Pilot Fund guidance, with additional sites considered as identified by District Partners and delivery partners.
- 1.15 Full details of the bid, include details of sites under consideration, can be found in Appendix 1 (confidential).

### **Next steps**

- 1.16 Proposals for the West Yorkshire LEVI pilot scheme are being developed in collaboration with the West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Strategy Group which includes officer membership from the five West Yorkshire district. Alongside this, conversations are ongoing with infrastructure suppliers to identify solutions and investment opportunities to ensure optimum schemes for the region and secure the private investment needed to support the bid proposal as required by the LEVI pilot fund. The final proposal will be developed in advance of the bid submission in June 2022.

### **3. Tackling the Climate Emergency Implications**

- 3.1 The principal aim of the pilot scheme is to accelerate the proportion of electric vehicles in West Yorkshire to reduce carbon emissions and support West Yorkshire's response to the Climate Emergency.

### **4. Inclusive Growth Implications**

- 4.1 The scheme supports the Combined Authority's inclusive growth ambitions by ensuring equity of access to EV charging infrastructure, particularly in areas higher density housing areas with no access to off-street parking.

### **5. Equality and Diversity Implications**

- 5.1 A key aim of the scheme is to ensure EV infrastructure better supports equality, diversity and inclusion across the region, ensuring provision is accessible to all and meets local needs. An Equality Impact Assessment will be developed as the scheme progresses.

### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications directly arising from this report (no additional match funding required by CA or District Partners).

### **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **8. Staffing Implications**

- 8.1 There are no staffing implications directly arising from this report.

### **9. External Consultees**

- 9.1 Private infrastructure providers will be engaged through the proposal development process and, if successful with the bid, through delivery of the scheme.

### **10. Recommendations**

- 10.1 That the Transport Committee notes the West Yorkshire LEVI Pilot Proposal under development with District Partners through the West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy Officer Group.
- 10.2 That the Transport Committee approves the submission of the bid and delegates the final submission to the Managing Director in consultation with the Mayor and Chair of the Transport Committee in June 2022.

### **11. Background Documents**

There are no background documents referenced in this report.

## **12. Appendices**

Appendix 1 – West Yorkshire Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) pilot Proforma (confidential)