

Project Overview

Project Title	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme
Main Funding Programme	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund
Current Forecast Project cost	£20.642m – £32.642m
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority now	£1.436m
Other public sector funding amounts and sources	N/A
Private sector funding amounts and sources	Private investment £3.5m - £15.5m

Scheme Description

The West Yorkshire LEVI Programme will significantly enhance the number of publicly accessible charge points in the region, specifically targeting 'close-to-home' charging for residents without access to off street parking.

The programme will leverage private investment for charge points, supported by LEVI funding provided by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).

The programme includes an element to improve the capability of the Combined Authority and its local authority partners to develop and deliver EV-related schemes through funding three new posts within the CA.

Business Case Summary

Strategic Case

The Combined Authority and partners have formally declared a climate emergency and set an ambition to become net zero-carbon by 2038. The West Yorkshire Carbon Emission Reduction Pathways study found that transport is the largest emitter as a sector, dominated by private vehicle use. The West Yorkshire Climate and Environment Plan 2021 – 2024 sets a commitment to accelerate the deployment of electric vehicle charge points across the region with a focus on ensuring equity.

Urban areas in West Yorkshire have been identified as having some of the highest levels of air pollution in the UK outside of London. There are currently 36 Air Quality Management Areas in West Yorkshire and Bradford's Class C+ Clean Air Zone (CAZ) went live in September 2022. Areas experiencing high levels of deprivation are often disproportionately affected by poor air quality. In West Yorkshire, 20% of neighbourhoods are categorised in the 10% most deprived in England – this is equivalent to more than half a million people.

As of January 2023, there were 832 publicly available electric vehicle charging devices in West Yorkshire. However, government figures predict over 10,000 may be needed by 2030 to meet demand. Although EV charging behaviour patterns have yet to be fully established, it is widely anticipated that most people will charge at home overnight as the most convenient and cheapest method of recharging. A significant proportion of residents in West Yorkshire do not have access to off-street parking for home charging. Current charging provision does not meet the needs of residents.

The government has commitment to ending sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles by 2030, and for all new cars and vans to be fully zero emission at tailpipe by 2035. The West Yorkshire LEVI

Programme looks to significantly accelerate charge point delivery across the region, targeting delivery where it is needed most, primarily to deliver infrastructure for strategic priorities and provide charging provision in residential areas without access to off-street parking, ensuring charge points are easy to use, as well as being fair, inclusive and accessible to all.

Economic Case

Based on an assessment of both longlist and shortlist of options the preferred option to take forward for further development was:

- **Areas of strategic need + Enabling works / Additional benefits priorities:** Focus on quality with mobility hubs and on-street provision, including placemaking around charge points and local energy production and storage where needed. Focus on build outs on street or creating local hubs on local authority-owned land.

Further work on monetised benefits will be carried out as part of OBC development.

Commercial Case

A procurement framework is in development for West Yorkshire for use by the LEVI Programme. This will be a competitive process to formalise a working relationship with three private organisations looking to invest in EV charge point infrastructure who will deliver, operate and maintain charge points.

Financial Case

The West Yorkshire Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme is designed to significantly accelerate deployment of electric vehicle charge points in the region. The programme will leverage private investment for charge points, supported by LEVI funding provided by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV).

The LEVI programme is made up of the following three schemes:

- Phase 1: LEVI Pilot Funding – Grant funding of £1.5m has been secured, which will look to leverage private investment to deliver a minimum of 150 charge points across West Yorkshire
- Phase 2: LEVI Capital Fund – Grant funding of £14,326,000 allocated to West Yorkshire to extend the pilot scheme to further accelerate delivery of charge points (subject to OZEV approval of proposal). Estimated delivery of between 500 – 1000 charge points
- LEVI Capability Fund - Grant funding of £236,880 allocated to West Yorkshire for resourcing for the planning and delivery of EV Infrastructure (awarded) plus £1,079,120 allocated to West Yorkshire for further resourcing for the planning and delivery of EV Infrastructure (subject to OZEV approval of proposal)

Management Case

The LEVI Programme has been developed with the West Yorkshire Electric Vehicle Strategy Task Group which includes officers from all 5 district partners. This group meets fortnightly and is used to design, develop and progress EV policy and strategy as well as delivery. Market engagement has been ongoing with various operators and stakeholders throughout the development of this programme. This included a market testing exercises carried out in May and December 2022.

A Programme Board and a LEVI Steering Group has been established to help manage, govern and deliver the project.