

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Neil Baker, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport

DECISION NO:

23/00116

For publication**Key decision: YES****Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Project****Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, I agree to:

- (i) ACCEPT a Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) grant of £12,081,000 capital from Department for Transport to support on-street electric charging point infrastructure provision subject to final review and consideration of detailed terms and conditions.
- (ii) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, and Corporate Director of Finance, to review and agree to the required terms and conditions to enter into the necessary grant arrangements.
- (iii) Approve the procurement of a Charge Point Operator partner(s), who will be responsible for the installation, operation and maintenance of a county wide electric vehicle charger network in accordance with the LEVI criteria, subject to agreed terms and conditions.
- (iv) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport to, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport, negotiate, finalise and enter into relevant contracts to implement the required contract award
- (v) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport and the Corporate Director of Finance, to accept future years' allocations of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) grant providing funding is given on similar terms.
- (vi) DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Growth, Environment and Transport, to take other actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

In February 2023, the Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles (OZEV) allocated Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding, of £12,081,000 capital and £720,000 revenue to influence the deployment of residential charging. to help deliver a step change in the deployment of local, primarily low power, on-street charging infrastructure to accelerate the commercialisation of, and investment in, the local charging infrastructure sector.

Consideration has been taken to understand the scope of the LEVI fund, scale of the challenge for Kent, commercial opportunities available and engagement with the grant funders and market operatives. A decision is now required to apply to OZEV to accept the capital Grant funding allocated to Kent. Once approved KCC can proceed through procurement and understand the specific offers available from the market.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

A market engagement exercise was conducted between August and October 2023 to understand the market and answer a variety of questions surrounding commercial viability and whether delivery against the LEVI criteria could be achieved. Several suppliers were then approached for interviews, where conversations highlighted key information to officers that has helped inform and develop the business case.

The proposed decision is being considered by members of Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee at their meeting on 11 January 2024.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- **Decline LEVI finding and use existing On street Residential Charge Point (ORCS) funding.** OZEV has made it clear the LEVI will be replacing ORCS and it is likely that ORCS will not be available beyond financial year 2023/24, leaving a funding gap.
- **Joint Venture.** Setting up a joint venture comes with its own range of risks which should be carefully considered before choosing this route.
- **No private sector capital investment – External operator.** The local authority typically invests all of the capital costs and retains ownership of the assets. Operational responsibilities are transferred to a service provider for part of the revenue.
- **Land Lease** Since a 'lease' is just an interest in the property, the party leasing the land has a grant of possession of the land for a definite period and for a definite payment arrangement. Consequently, the local authority has no control over the eventual EVCP infrastructure that is deployed.
- **Own and Operate.** This option would significantly reduce the scale of delivery unless KCC supplemented the LEVI grant money.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

.....
signed

.....
date