

# Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Reference Number:	5136
Author:	Anne-Marie Barclay
Department:	Growth and City Development
Contact:	Anne-Marie Barclay (Job Title: Project Manager, Email: annemarie.barclay@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 01158764095)

Subject: **Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability funding**

Total Value: **£399,710 (Type: Revenue)**

Decision Being Taken:

1. To accept £318,980 from the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Revenue Funding to provide project team support for delivery of the LEVI Programme for local charging infrastructure for 2023/24 and 2024/25 as outlined in Appendix B;
2. To allocate £399,710 of LEVI Capability Revenue funding internally to support the proposed staffing allocations set out in Appendix A, comprising £318,980 of new grant funding and £80,730 already accepted in Delegated Decision 5106 (see Appendix C).

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Government's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund was launched in 2022 to support local authorities in England to work with the charge point operator industry to increase the roll out of local charging infrastructure, in particular for residents who do not have off-street parking and need to charge electric vehicles (EVs). Nottingham City Council has been successful in securing £1,704,000 capital funding for chargepoint rollout and £469,730 capability funding to expand resource capacity to support delivery.

The Council is already one of the leading local authorities for the roll out of chargepoint infrastructure having established the publicly accessible D2N2 public network in 2018. The LEVI capability funding will help the Council employ and train a multi-disciplinary team specifically to help develop delivery of the project by identifying and designing the LEVI chargepoint infrastructure locations. Staff are also required to help manage the LEVI contract with the supplier and monitor their performance.

The LEVI capability funding has been awarded in three tranches:

- 1) The Council had already received £70,020 from the capability funding in 2023 to develop the initial business case, which was approved through an Operational Decision to expand capacity within the Transport Strategy service.
- 2) A further £318,980 has been awarded to continue development work through 2024/25 and onwards (included in the Appendix B Grant Determination letter).
- 3) A separate Leader's Key Decision was recently approved following a separate bid to Government for Additional Capacity Funding of £80,730. It is proposed to use this funding to support the staffing costs for the on going development work, with additional support from Transformation/Major Programmes, Highways Design, Traffic Management (including Road Safety and Network Management), Communications and Marketing, Procurement and Legal Services.

Spend Control restrictions only apply to external payments to bodies and organisations outside of the Council - this decision relates only to internal transfers of the grant funding which are outside of the scope of Spend Control. In line with the Council's Spend Control policy, a HR Spend Approval will be submitted for new recruitment/capacity required to support this project by the relevant teams individually before any spend is incurred.

Funding is being spent in line with the criteria set out by DfT, which has been provided to expand internal capacity to help manage and deliver electric vehicle infrastructure projects. The funding allocations will support existing roles (diverted to assist in project delivery) and new recruitments to increase resource within the council to meet the requirements of the grant funding.

A proforma has been shared with DfT setting out our proposed utilisation of the LEVI capability funding currently to the end of the 2025/26 financial year aligned to key milestones. The grant funding does not have an end date and therefore can be carried forward to support in future years. At this stage there is no confirmation from DfT if any further additional capability funding will be made available in future financial years to support the infrastructure roll out and subsequent contract management activities. To mitigate this risk the tender documentation is being drafted to seek a guaranteed minimum payment and/or revenue share from potential operators over the lifetime of the concession period.

Plans for utilising the capital funding are in the process of being finalised by the project team and will be subject to separate approval through an Executive Board report.

**Briefing notes documents:**

Appendix A - LEVI Capability Funding - Allocation of Funding.pdf, Appendix B - LEVI Capability Fund - Grant Determination - Nottingham City Council.pdf, Appendix C - Grant Determination - LEVI Capability Fund 18.03.pdf

**Other Options Considered:**

The option to refuse this money was rejected as utilising grant funding means these activities can be delivered at no additional cost to the Council. The funding has been made available to the City Council to support expansion of electric vehicle charge point infrastructure, supporting strategic goals of improving air quality and contributing to the Carbon Neutral 2028 Plan.

**Background Papers:**

<b>Published Works:</b>	<b>Leaders Key Decision 5106: Acceptance of grant funding from the Department for Transport</b>
<b>Affected Wards:</b>	<b>Citywide</b>
<b>Colleague / Councillor Interests:</b>	
<b>Consultations:</b>	<b>Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.</b>
<b>Crime and Disorder Implications:</b>	<b>None. This decision relates to the acceptance of funding only. Full implications will be considered as part of the subsequent approval for the Capital programme</b>
<b>Equality:</b>	<b>EIA not required. Reasons: This decision relates to the acceptance of funding only. Full implications will be considered as part of the subsequent approval for the Capital programme</b>
<b>Decision Type:</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder</b>
<b>Subject to Call In:</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Call In Expiry date:</b>	<b>27/06/2024</b>
<b>Advice Sought:</b>	<b>Legal, Finance</b>
<b>Commissioner Comments:</b>	<b>Commissioners have noted the report and have no further comments.</b>
<b>Legal Advice:</b>	<p><b>This report seeks approval to accept £318,980 from the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Revenue Funding to provide project team support for delivery of the LEVI Programme for local charging infrastructure, and approve the proposed staffing allocations set out in Appendix A.</b></p> <p><b>In using this funding, the Council must comply with any conditions imposed on the use of such LEVI funding. In particular, in ensuring that the Council can meet any obligations imposed upon it by the funding conditions, suitable agreements should be in place if the funding is to be passed to third party organisations, for example corporate functions.</b></p> <p><b>The majority of the proposed use of funding, as set out in Appendix A, relates to staffing. Colleague should ensure that they access and follow support and guidance from HR in relation to staffing matters.</b></p> <p><b>Anthony Heath, Team Leader (Interim), Contracts and Commercial, 25th April 2024</b></p>

**Finance Advice:**

The decision to accept £318,980 from the Department for Transport's Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Revenue Funding, and approve the proposed staffing allocations set out in Appendix A, totalling £399,710 - with the difference (£80,730) previously approved on Leaders Key Decision 5106 is supported.

The LEVI business case has already been completed, having received £70,020 in 2023/2024 financial year, approved with an Operational decision. Nottingham City Council is one of the leading local authorities for chargepoint infrastructure, which aligns with carbon neutral objectives.

Regarding timescales for the LEVI revenue activities, the main procurement will be led by Nottinghamshire County Council over the summer. Approval is required from DfT to award the contract which is anticipated for autumn 2024, and once secured Nottingham City Council will engaging in early 2025, with anticipated works commencing on site either towards the end of this financial year, or early next financial year. DfT sign off to award is key in the programme (anticipated September-December), with the Transport Strategy department in Nottingham City Council having the longest involvement, until end of financial year 2026/2027.

Transport Strategy has a total of £150,172 Directly allocated with £60,172 for contribution to training and upskilling staff, and £90,000 for a principle transport planner.

Through labour recharges the below departments are allocated the following;

- . Transformation/Major programmes has £100,000 allocated with £20,000 for resource management and £80,000 for a project manager.
- . Parking, Traffic and highway services have been allocated £99,038 for the additional functions required by the LEVI fund set out in the appendix.

Corporate have been allocated £50,500 Direct award for the additional functions required by the LEVI scheme set out in the appendix, with £10,000 earmarked for communications and updates relating to the LEVI progress plan, and £40,500 for 50% FTE of a legal locum or external legal resource via a Law Firm or Counsel, which if required outsourcing would need to be sourced via an appropriate framework, with Procurement guidelines followed.

The relevant revenue budgets will be updated on the financial system and reviewed regularly at forecasting. The grant will be documented in the register and financial requirements adhered to, including terms set out by the Department of Transport in Appendix B.

Advice provided by Paul Rogers (Commercial Finance Business Partner (G&D)) on 20/05/2024.

**Signatures**

<b>Neghat Khan (Leader / Exec member, Strategic Regeneration)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 19/06/2024</b>
<b>Sajeeda Rose (Corporate Director of Growth &amp; City Development)</b>
<b>SIGNED and Dated: 17/06/2024</b>