Parish Information Sheet

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For use by Somerset Council

From:	**Sue Tomlinson and Chris Beswick**
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To:	**Parish, Town and City Councils and LCN's**

Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Programme

What is LEVI:

LEVI is government funding for the installation of low-powered electric vehicle chargepoints. It supports local authorities in England to plan and deliver charging infrastructure for residents without access to off-street parking.

The LEVI fund has two main objectives:

1. To deliver a step-change in the deployment of local, primarily low power, on-street charging infrastructure across England.
2. To accelerate the commercialisation of, and investment in, the local charging infrastructure sector.

Somerset Council has received £3.78 million in capital funding to significantly expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure across the county.

Chargepoint Operator Procurement:

The Somerset Council project team has recently completed procurement activity to appoint a chargepoint operator who will supply, install, operate, and maintain a minimum of 1,606 chargepoint sockets at on-street and car park locations across Somerset.

As a result, we have identified our preferred supplier. Although the contract is not yet in place, we aim to finalise it early in the new year, with installations expected soon after.

As a concession contract, the chargepoint operator will bear the majority of associated risks and is required to invest at least 60% of the total cost of installations.

The contract term is 17 years with installations completed within the first two years. At the end of the contract terms the chargepoints will be decommissioned or transferred to Somerset Council at no cost, at that time the Council is likely to procure a new supplier due to the ongoing revenue costs.

Charging Hardware:

Installations will include standard 3.5kW single socket bollards and 7kW dual socket chargepoints. Where feasible, the existing low-voltage lamp column cable network will be utilised.

In addition to LEVI funded chargepoints, the chargepoint operator will install up to 20 rapid (50kW+) chargepoints. These will be fully funded by the chargepoint operator under the same concession contract. To maximise early visibility and usage, deployment will prioritise the rapid chargepoints.

Chargepoint Deployment Strategy:

Chargepoint delivery has been categorised into two scenarios to ensure rural areas are not left behind.

- **Scenario 1:** Higher demand areas (75%) – operator-preferred locations
- **Scenario 2:** Lower demand areas (25%) – mandatory council-preferred locations

Several factors must be considered when selecting suitable locations, including:

✓ Number of properties without off-street parking
✓ Pavement width after installation: ideally 2m clear zone, minimum 1m
✓ Road width and safety considerations:
- 10m from junction
- Injury collision data
- Bus routes/stops, cycle lanes, zebra and signal-controlled crossings

✓ Alignment with fire safety guidance
✓ Not in a conservation area
✓ No significant tree root or canopy constraints
✓ No significant flood zone constraints
✓ No conflicts with statutory requirements for street furniture or underground utilities
✓ Review of future planned developments
✓ Power supply availability
✓ Local knowledge of area

Final decisions on locations, chargepoint types, and total units will be jointly agreed upon by the LEVI project team and the chargepoint operator.

Due to the long-term nature of the 17 year contract, the complexities of identifying suitable locations, and the additional considerations involved when working with third parties, chargepoints

installed under this contract will be located on land owned by Somerset Council or adopted by the Highways Authority only.

Resident Engagement and Location Requests:

Comms and Engagement is critical to the success of this programme.

Residents are invited to actively participate in identifying preferred on-street chargepoint locations via our newly launched webpage: Electric Vehcile Charging

A joint press release from Somerset Council and our preferred supplier will be published in the new year, marking the start of our public engagement.

- **Why it matters:** Resident input helps prioritise locations based on real need.
- **Approval process:**

    1. All suggestions receive a unique reference number and automatic system reply
    2. Each requests added to the map and marked with an orange tag on a weekly basis
    3. All suggested locations will be reviewed against the initial triage criteria.
    4. Successful locations will be passed to our preferred supplier for due diligence, including a site visit.
    5. Final approval from the Council will be required before installation.

- **Address validation:** Ensures requests are confirmed and enables follow-up discussions.
- **Managing expectations:**

    1. Multiple requests for the same location do not carry additional weight in the decision-making process
    2. Not all requests will result in installations
    3. All respondents will be notified of the outcome of their request via email.

How you can help:

Parish, Town and City Councils and Local Community Networks can play a vital role in supporting the successful rollout of the LEVI programme by connecting council initiatives with community needs and priorities.

- **Promote the new webpage:** Share the ‘Suggest a Chargepoint Location’ link with residents through newsletters, websites, and social media.
- **Encourage participation:** Explain that resident input helps prioritise locations based on real need.
- **Manage expectations:** Remind residents that not all requests will result in installations.
- **Include in agendas:** Add electric vehicle charging updates to meeting agendas to keep the topic visible.
- **Provide feedback:** Let us know if you receive questions or concerns so we can address them promptly.

Pavement Channel Solutions:

Cross pavement channel solutions are not included within our LEVI programme; this section is for information only.

- **What are cross pavement solutions?** They allow residents without off-street parking to charge electric vehicles at home without trailing cables across pavements.
- **Current position:** Somerset Council has no policy or process for residents to apply for a licence to install a cross-pavement channel.
- **Legal requirement:** Any solution must comply with the Highways Act 1980, which governs public highway use and modification.
- **Action taken:** A Cross Pavement Solution Task and Finish Group has been set up to explore feasibility following a scrutiny recommendation.
- **Next steps:** A report on the proposed way forward will go to the Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee in Mat 2026.

Closing Statement:

We hope this briefing has been informative. We look forward to working with you and receiving lots of location suggestions from residents to help shape the rollout of EV chargepoints across Somerset.

For more Information, please contact Sue Tomlinson and Chris Beswick:
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