

Title: Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Fund Revenue Proposal
Report of: Director of Transport
Portfolio: Transport

Report Summary

The Mayor's Local Transport Plan (LTP) and associated Strategic Portfolio Plan include an ambition to increase charging infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEV) across the North East. In December 2024, the North East Combined Authority (North East CA) was awarded £15,829,000 of the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund from the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) to deliver a step change in charging infrastructure. To help build the capacity of local authorities to deliver the charging infrastructure, the North East CA has also received £568,670 from OZEV as part of the 2025/26 funding allocations (the focus of this report).

Following a briefing of the Technical Officers' Group (TOG) on 21 July 2025 and the Chief Finance Officer's acceptance of funding and approval of the Grant Determination Letter and Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 30 September 2025, this report requests authorisation of the proposed funding split across the seven local authorities and the North East CA. Authorising the proposed allocation of funding will ensure that the North East CA and seven local authorities have the capability to lead and manage the roll-out of charging infrastructure across the region.

The delegation for the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Portfolio Holder, to make this decision was granted by the North East CA Cabinet at its meeting on 30 July 2024 as part of the delegated authority to progress investment decisions associated with activities included in the Strategic Portfolio Plans.

Recommendations

The Chief Executive is recommended to authorise the proposed funding allocations from the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Capability Fund (Revenue) across the seven local authorities and North East CA including:

- £54,049 allocation for each local authority (£378,343 in total across the seven local authorities).
- £190,327 allocation for the North East CA.

A. Context

1. Fund Background

- 1.1 The LEVI Capability Fund, launched in March 2023, builds local authorities' capacity to deliver effective EV charging infrastructure projects that maximise private sector funding (see Appendix B for funding conditions). This will ensure that charging infrastructure meets residents' needs whilst supporting the national target for the phasing out of petrol and diesel cars by 2035.
- 1.2 To date the North East CA has received a total of £1,955,670 of LEVI Capability funding from 2022/23 to 2025/26 (as shown in Appendix A, Table 1). The 2025/26 allocation is consistent with the previous allocations from the previous two financial years.

2. 2025/26 Payment Overview

- 2.1 In December 2024 OZEV announced an extension to the LEVI Capability Fund for 2025/26. The aim of this extension is to ensure that local authorities remain resourced to plan and deliver EV charging infrastructure.
- 2.2 On 20th June 2025 the North East CA received an offer letter from the Department of Transport (DfT) confirming the North East's allocation of £568,670 for the LEVI Capability Fund.

- 2.3 On 12th September 2025 the funding Grant Determination Letter and MoU were received. Both were approved by the Chief Finance Officer on 30th September 2025. The funding will be available for financial year 2025/26 as a single Grant payment under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

3. 2025/26 Proposed Allocations

- 3.1 In line with previous allocations, the North East CA will retain a larger proportion of the funding to partially cover the cost of the ZEV team and for external legal support including advice on land ownership arrangements and contract approaches (e.g. terms and conditions and the development of commercial contracts with EV suppliers). Full details of the proposed allocations can be found in Appendix A, Table 2 of this report, reflecting comments received from TOG in July 2025.
- 3.2 It is proposed that the remainder of the allocation is distributed equally across each of the seven local authorities (detail provided in Appendix A, Table 3). Grant Funding Agreements (GFA) will be completed between the North East CA and each local authority following the approval of this decision.
- 3.3 OZEV require quarterly reporting to be carried out to ensure funding is being used appropriately. This is consistent with previous rounds of funding (2022/23-2024/25).

4. Benefits

- 4.1 LEVI Capability funding will provide many benefits including:
- Ensuring that the North East CA and seven local authorities have the capacity and capability to manage the planning and delivery of EV charging infrastructure across the region.
 - Enabling each local authority to have a published EV infrastructure strategy.
 - Enabling each local authority to take advantage of the LEVI Capital Fund.

5. Next steps

- 5.1 Subject to approval of the recommendations in this report, GFAs will be produced and provided to each local authority. It is anticipated that these will be in place by the end of October 2025.

B. Impact on North East Combined Authority Objectives

The LEVI Capability Fund supports the delivery of the Mayor's LTP of delivering a green integrated transport network that works for all. The LEVI Capability Fund will also contribute towards achieving the following North East CA Missions:

- A North East we are proud to call home, by implementing a core element of the Mayor's Local Transport Plan.
- Home of the green energy revolution, by ensuring the North East CA and the seven local authorities have the capability to manage the roll out of EV charging infrastructure across the region.

C. Key risks

The following key risks have been identified if Capability funding is delayed/not provided:

- Local authority capacity to deliver the work may be affected. This in turn will delay delivery of the LEVI Capital Fund.
- Lack of technical relevant skills available to North East ZEV teams (e.g. North East CA and local authorities), which may also impact upon the delivery of the LEVI Capital Fund.

D. Financial and other resources implications

The financial profile for the project is £568,670. A 100% of revenue Grant expenditure will be in the 2025/2026 financial year.

E. Legal implications

Grant Funding Agreements will be developed with all local authorities, this will include the proposed funding allocations and funding conditions which reflect the requirements placed on the North East

CA which are listed in Appendix B. The comments of the Monitoring Officer have been included in this report.

F. Equalities implications

The North East CA follows the Public Sector Equality duty and this report has due regard to the need to achieve the objectives set out under s149 of the Equality Act 2010. Any employment opportunities that are delivered as part of the capability funding will be advertised in accordance with relevant equality, diversity and inclusion objectives.

G. Consultation and engagement

All seven local authorities are aware of the proposed funding allocations. Proposed allocations for the seven local authorities and the North East CA were presented to, and supported by, TOG on 21 July 2025.

H. Appendices

Appendix A- North East LEVI Capability Funding Allocations
Appendix B- Recommended Conditions of Funding.

I. Background papers

TOG Paper
LEVI Capability Funding Award Letter
Memorandum of Understanding
Grant Determination Letter

The Mayor's LTP and the ZEV strategy are available on the North East Combined Authority Website: [Local Transport Plan](#) and [Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy](#)

J. Contact officers

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K. Glossary

GFA – Grant Funding Agreement
LEVI – Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
LTP – Local Transport Plan
OZEV – Office for Zero Emission Vehicles
ZEV – Zero Emission Vehicles

L. Sign-off

1) Cabinet Member: Yes	2) Director/Head of Service: Yes	3) Director of Finance and Investment: Yes	4) Monitoring Officer: Yes
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Appendix A- North East LEVI Capability Funding Allocations

Table 1: North East CA LEVI Capability Funding 2022/23, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26

Financial year	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	Total Allocation to date
Amount (£)	249,660	568,670	568,670	568,670	1,955,670

Table 2: Proposed LEVI Capability North East CA 2025/26 Allocations

LEVI Capability Fund: Recommended North East CA Allocation	
Resource	Proposed Amount 25/26 (£)
Partial staffing of ZEV team	
ZEV Programme Manager	64,782.39
ZEV Infrastructure Development Officer	52,544.01
ZEV Infrastructure Development Officer	52,544.01
ZEV Transport Development Professional	32,818.92
Total	202,689.33
Amount funded through LEVI capability (8.9 of 12 months)	150,145.32
External legal support	40,181.68
Total	190,327

Table 3: Proposed LEVI Capability 2025/26 Allocations

LEVI Capability Fund: Recommendation Allocation	
Authority	Recommended Amount 25/26 (£)
North East Combined Authority	190,327.00
Durham County Council	54,049.00
Gateshead Council	54,049.00
Newcastle City Council	54,049.00
Northumberland County Council	54,049.00
North Tyneside Council	54,049.00
South Tyneside Council	54,049.00
Sunderland City Council	54,049.00
Total	568,670.00

Appendix B – Recommended Conditions of Funding

The following conditions of funding were agreed in the MoU for the financial year of 2025/26:

No.	Condition
1.	The Combined Authority should be expected to work with constituent authorities.
2.	It is recommended that local authorities seek opportunities for regional collaboration with other local authorities and bodies such as Sub-national Transport Bodies.
3.	The Combined Authority should use the funding allocated for the purposes outlined in the proposal approved by the Department (e.g. staffing and legal support)
4.	Local authorities should utilise the funding for the following purposes:

	• Salary and overheads of staff working to support the planning and delivery of local EV charging. • Project planning for strategy and delivery workstreams. • Internal and external engagement and coordination. • Funding external consultants for discrete pieces of work. • Commissioning other work to build the evidence base for priority locations for EV infrastructure deployment.
5.	The Combined Authority is expected to deliver on the activities which it has outlined in its returned proposals and in the agreed timescales.
6.	Local authorities are responsible for managing their own carbon footprint and should be mindful of their carbon impact as a result of following EV strategies and resource being used to install EV infrastructure projects. Guidance is available from the Energy Saving Trust and the Carbon Trust.