



Department  
for Transport

From the Secretary of State  
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To: Council leaders in England

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## CALL TO ACTION: ELECTRIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE

As the first G7 nation to announce phase out dates for new petrol and diesel cars, vans and trucks, the UK is at the forefront of the electric vehicle (EV) transition. We have already seen astonishing uptake of EVs in this country. In December 2021, over a quarter of all new cars sold in the UK were battery electric vehicles. New British jobs are being created to support this technology every day.

Today, I am pleased to announce that we are publishing the Government's Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy. We have one of the largest public charging networks in Europe with around 29,500 public chargepoints, of which over 5,400 are 'rapid' – able to charge an electric vehicle in around 30 minutes. A recent SMMT report found that the UK is leading the Western world in provision of rapid and ultra-rapid public chargers<sup>1</sup> and a 2020 NGO study found we have more rapid chargers every 100 miles of key strategic road than any country in Europe.<sup>2</sup> But we need to accelerate deployment to meet our 2030 ambitions and level up the rollout of public chargepoints.

The strategy will introduce new laws to improve **people's experience of using the charging network**, addressing the key concerns around ease of payment, payment options, price transparency, reliability, and open data. **For longer journeys, we will give people the confidence that they will be able to charge quickly and easily.** We are accelerating the roll out of high-power chargers on the strategic road network through the existing £950m Rapid Charging Fund. This will unlock electricity network capacity at motorway service areas, enabling advance provision of infrastructure.

Most EV drivers predominantly charge at home, and we expect this trend to continue. However, we cannot allow a two-tier experience between people with and without access to off street parking. **Access to local on-street public**

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<sup>1</sup> SMMT (2022). Delivering consumer-centric charging infrastructure for zero emission mobility: Position Paper. Available at: <https://www.smmt.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/SMMT-EV-Infrastructure-Position-Paper-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Transport & Environment (2020). Recharge EU: How many chargepoints will Europe and its Member States need in the 2020s. Updated based on data from EAFO and Eurostat (2021). Available at: <http://www.indiaenvironmentportal.org.in/files/file/Recharge-EU-charge-points-Europe-2020s.pdf>

**charging is essential; that is why we are announcing in the strategy a substantial package of measures to support local authorities and transform local on-street charging:**

- **Delivering a combined funding pot of approximately £500m** to help local authorities to deploy charging infrastructure and leverage private sector investment. This includes uplifting our new Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund with £400m of capital and £50m of resource funding. And, the continuation of our successful On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme with £20m allocated for 2022/23. We have today opened a £10m pilot of the LEVI fund which we encourage local authorities in England to bid for. The scope of LEVI fund is England only. Funding has been allocated to the Devolved Administrations through the Barnett Formula.
- **Launching our [EV charging local authority knowledge hub](#) on [gov.uk](#)** to provide guidance for all local authorities.
- **Continuing to provide free support, through the [Local Government Support Programme](#),** to ensure local authorities across England have access to knowledgeable and experienced experts on EV charging infrastructure.

### **£10m Local EV Infrastructure (LEVI) fund pilot – how to bid**

To ensure the new LEVI fund is designed in a way to best support local authorities in delivery, we have launched a £10m pilot which I invite you to apply for: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-local-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-levi-pilot-funding>

A key aim of the LEVI pilot is to leverage private sector investment and trial innovative, larger scale, commercially focused proposals in England. We are keen for local authorities to think strategically and long-term about their EV charging infrastructure needs.

The pilot will inform the development of the full £400m fund, and the £50m resource funding, which we are aiming to launch in 2022/23.

Yours sincerely,



**Rt Hon Grant Shapps MP**

**SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT**