



Report to:	Grants Advisory Committee	28 th April 2023
Lead Cabinet Member:	Lead Cabinet Member for Finance	
Lead Officer:	Head of Climate, Environment and Waste	

Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant: Funding Applications

Executive Summary

1. This report summarises a grant application and recommendation to Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) for an award to SCDC's Electric Vehicle Charge Point Fund 2023/24. Members are asked to consider the grant application (detailed in Table 1 of Appendix A) and make a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance.

Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision as the funding amount is below the value for £200,000.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that the GAC:
 - a. reviews the application to SCDC's Electric Vehicle Charge Point Fund 2023/24 as set out in **Table 1 of Appendix A** to this report; and
 - b. agrees the recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance for allocating the requested funding with reference to the application criteria and guidance set out at **Appendix B**.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Officers consider that the application has demonstrated that the project meets the key criteria for grant funding, as set out in detail below.

Details

5. The Council is committed to supporting the shift to net zero carbon emissions in the district by 2050, as demonstrated by the motion passed at its November 2018 meeting and set out in the Council's Zero Carbon Strategy (2020) and Zero Carbon and Doubling Nature Action Plan 2020-2025 supporting the transition to decarbonisation of transport within the district is a crucial aspect of the Council's approach. Electric vehicles (EVs) are likely to play a key role in this transition.
6. However, one barrier to EV adoption is the lack of suitable EV charging infrastructure particularly issue in rural areas. To help address this, aim the Grants Advisory Committee recommended to the Lead Cabinet member for Finance that the Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant was to be established. The decision to establish the grant scheme was issued on 2nd November 2022.
7. This grant scheme is therefore intended to enable and encourage parishes, village halls and community buildings to install public EVCPs by providing financial support in addition to other funding sources raised by the applicants.
8. The grant is available to fund capital costs towards installation of public EVCPs, and associated works, in the car parks of community buildings and village halls within South Cambridgeshire.
9. Applicants may apply for up to £5,000 per project, with funding awarded on a first come first served basis.
10. Full application criteria and guidance notes as published on the SCDC website can be found at Appendix B. Scoring methodology for applications is set out in Appendix B
11. The total amount of funding available for the EVCP Grant for the remainder of 2023/24 is £46,500. This includes £30,000 allocated to the 2023/24 grant fund and rolled over funding of £16,500 from the 22/23 fund. The below table sets out funding applied for in 2023/24 and remaining funding to be allocated.

Total Grant Available Budget 2023/24	Applications received to date in 2023/24	Total applied for	Remaining budget
£46,500	1	£5,000	£41,500

12. There is one application for consideration by the Grants Advisory Committee, submitted by Shepreth Parish Council, for installation of two single socket 22kW EVCPs in the car park to the rear of Shepreth Village Hall, adjacent to Shepreth Parish Recreation Field. A detailed summary of the submitted application can be found at Appendix A. The applicant requests £5,000 towards the total project capital cost of £12,592.35. The remaining £7,592.35 would be funded by Shepreth Parish Council.

13. Officers consider that the application demonstrates a likely prospect of demand and future use, due largely to the good range of nearby amenities and businesses in the village as referenced in the application. These include Shepreth Rail Station, Shepreth Wildlife Park, a cafe and the recreation ground within walking distance, as well as 20 businesses within the village, many of which are located on Station Road and The Sidings within approximately 5 minutes' walk of the proposed location.
14. Although the application has made no assessment of resident demand for a charger, it is noted that the speed of the proposed charger (22kW can charge a typical EV in less than 2 hours) is suitable for the context described above, where shorter dwell times could be expected from local businesses or users of nearby amenities, when compared with domestic users who might ordinarily charge overnight. Nevertheless, there would be nothing to prevent use by residents given the site is accessible 24/7, and officers note that on nearby Docwra's Close and Barron's Green there are dwellings without private off-street parking that may benefit from a publicly accessible charger.
15. Estimated timescales, an installer quote and a financial breakdown including match funding and evidence of available funds have been provided, showing that the project is deliverable. Using the methodology in Appendix B the application has been given a score of 76.6/100. Taking the above into account, the application is considered to comply with the criteria and conditions of the grant fund.

Options

16. The Grants Advisory Committee may consider the application for funding as set out in Appendix A of this report and recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance to:
 - A) award the amount of funding requested,
 - B) award an alternative amount of funding, including zero funding,
 - C) defer a decision, if further information is required from grant applicants, or
 - D) reject an application stating the reason for this.

Implications

17. There are no significant implications

Consultation responses

18. The Lead Member for Climate has been consulted on this report and its recommendations.

Alignment with Council Priority Areas

Growing local businesses and economies

19. By funding EV chargers at community buildings and village halls, the EV Charge Point Grant could encourage and support local businesses in their switch to zero emissions vehicles by increasing charging opportunities and supporting charging infrastructure at business premises.

Being green to our core

20. Visual presence of EV chargers can promote behavioural change by encouraging uptake of EVs, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and reducing tailpipe emissions from petrol or diesel vehicles that would otherwise have been used.
21. EVCPs funded through this grant would represent encouragement from SCDC for the uptake of electric vehicles by supporting provision of public EVCPs and therefore addressing wider district emissions

A modern and caring Council

22. EV chargers at parish and community buildings that are funded by this grant would be used by, and would benefit local people as well as visitors to the area

Background Papers

Grants Advisory Committee – 28th October 2022:

[Agenda for Grants Advisory Committee on Friday, 28th October 2022, 10:00 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

Appendices

Appendix A: Application summary

Appendix B: Application criteria and guidance notes for the SCDC Electric Vehicle Charge Point Grant

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