



EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Growth and Development
LEAD OFFICERS:	Growth Programme Director
DATE:	Wednesday, 9 October 2024

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Growth and Development
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
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SUBJECT: EMD (Executive Member Decision) Permission to offer Cable Channels for EV Charging
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Highway Authority have identified an EV Cross Footway Channel product from Aco, which will offer a viable solution for EV owners within Blackburn with Darwen, who don't have access to off-street parking. This solution will allow residents to safely charge their vehicles, using their own electrical supply.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member supports the officer's recommendation that: -

Blackburn with Darwen Highway Authority begin offering residents the option to pay for the installation of an EV Cross Footpath Channel (Cable Channel) to facilitate EV Charging for residents without off-street parking.

It is noted, in the absence of any certainty of take-up of this offer, that a waiver from the Council's Contract Procedure Rules is to be granted to allow use of the ACO product for this purpose and that this will be subject to review no later than the 3rd anniversary of the availability of this offer.

3. BACKGROUND

The aim of providing residents with the option to apply to have a cable channel is to enable householders to charge their Electric Vehicle safely from their domestic electricity supply, whilst parked on the adopted highway.

If this proposal is approved, we would provide the facility for Blackburn with Darwen residents to make an application for which once approved (and upon receipt of funds), Blackburn with Darwen Council will install a cable channel into the footway for eligible households without off-street parking. The application form is included within the "Appendix – Guide Price and Application.doc"

The cable channel is designed to sit flush with the pavement surface to minimise trip hazards and hinderance to wheelchair users or prams. The design enables a cable to be inserted into the channel whilst the car is connected to the home charge point, and then removed once the charging session is complete.

The EV footway cable channel involves two elements:

1. A domestic EV charge point (funded privately by the household) installed on the household's private land by an approved OZEV (Office for Zero Emissions Vehicles) installer.
2. EV cable channel and enabling works (after successful application process has been completed), that will be installed within the public footway by Blackburn with Darwen Council.

Blackburn with Darwen Council operating as the Highway Authority will own and maintain the channel but reserve the right to remove or infill the EV cable channel if it is misused, is no longer needed or if the Highway changes and the channel cannot be facilitated. We understand that in some areas it can prove challenging to park outside your home, and this will also make charging more difficult. However, these channels could provide a suitable solution in some areas and will allow savings to be made on the cost of charging vehicles.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

- If the option to allow residents to charge EVs via a cable channel were not permitted, it would cause financial disparity between those residents with off-street parking and those without.
- The public have no legal right to install apparatus in the highway without a licence. Its currently an offence for the public to run a cable across a highway without permission therefore the HA would be the only way a cable channel could be facilitated.
- There are no current commercial insurance packages available to the public to cover liability of a private residents to hold assets in the public highway.
- Once a cable channel is installed the space next to it is still public highway and not guaranteed for any individual.
- It is expected that this asset will reduce the integrity of the footway surface.

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The proposal requires delegated approval from the Executive Member for Growth and Development and Chief Officer.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Using a private residents electrical supply to charge an EV would be far cheaper than any of the public and commercial EV charging options. Eg. Private Supply 7.5p – 28p / kWh / Public & Commercial Supply 44p – 85p kWh.

Guide Price to purchase and install

A) Up to 2m of cable channel (cut to fit) £300 labour + £400 2m channel + £50 materials + £100 Processing = £850 (excluding VAT which will be chargeable given the nature of the service provided).

B) Up to 3m of cable channel (cut to fit) £300 labour + £600 3m channel + £100 materials + £100 Processing = £1100 (excluding VAT which will be chargeable given the nature of the service provided).

The cost to purchase the cable channel and installation fee, will be the responsibility of the resident making the application – however there is currently a £350 government grant available to off-set some of the cost.

The cost of inspection and maintenance of the Channels will remain with the Council. It is not possible to quantify the cost of this at this point given the take-up is difficult to predict, but it is not expected to be material. Where this changes, consideration may need to be given to the recovery of costs from residents, if indeed it is possible to do so.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 41 of the Highway Act 1980 imposes a duty on the Highway Authority to maintain the highways at public expense. Once the cable channel is installed the Highway Authority will be responsible for its maintenance.

Currently there are no regulations governing the inspection and maintenance of cable channels. However, we would intend for them to be inspected by Highway Authority inspectors during the usual Highways Inspections and maintained in a similar way as drainage assets.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Managing the EV Cable Channel project would be overseen by the Project Manager for EV Infrastructure. Applications would be processed, inspected and installed by Highway operations.

Maintenance of the cable channel after purchase and installation is paid for by the resident, would be provided by the Highway Authority.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3 In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

10. CONSULTATIONS

Internal consultations have taken place with the Head of Highways, Planning Team, Asset Manager, Highways Design Team and Network Management.

External consultations have been conducted with neighbouring LCC. They began the trial of cable channels over 18 months ago and the lessons learned from their trials were shared with BwD.

- LCC started Phase 1 of their trial of cable trays and have installed cable trays in Hyndburn, Ribble Valley, Lancaster, Preston, Rossendale, and Wyre.
- The LCC trials have safely facilitated the provision of EV charging for residents and they have trialled several different products.
- LCC is now considering the same channel as BwD as one of the products in Phase 2 of their trial across Lancashire.

We also conducted an APSE survey of LA authorities nationally, which shared best practice from Councils who are already providing the cable channel option.

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

VERSION:	1
CONTACT OFFICER:	Matthew Lambert
DATE:	09/10/2024
BACKGROUND PAPER:	Appendix – Guide price and ap