

Expression of Interest – Cambridgeshire Electric Vehicle cable channel trial

Cambridgeshire County Council are developing a trial to test whether electric vehicle (EV) cable channels are an appropriate charging solution in Cambridgeshire, to enable residents with no off-street parking to charge their EV using a domestic energy tariff by placing the cable in a cross-pavement channel.

The Council has approval to trial up to 250 cable channels across two phases. The trial is expected to commence in early Spring 2026. It has agreed to take a supplier led approach, on an approved supplier basis. Suppliers who meet our specification criteria will be permitted to take part in the trial and accept applications from residents during the trial period.

The trial will follow a phased approach, with a light-touch evaluation of phase 1 with the expectation of a smooth transition to phase 2, dependent on whether any unresolvable issues arise. The number of channels permitted across the two phases are as follows:

Phase 1: Up to 50 channel installations; 10 per district.

Phase 2: Up to 200 channel installations; 40 per district.

If more than one supplier is approved, the number of installations will be shared amongst approved suppliers but must not exceed these numbers. It will be up to interested residents to decide which supplier they wish to proceed with. The Council does not guarantee any number of installations per approved supplier.

We are now inviting expressions of interest from EV cable channel suppliers where their EV cable channel product meets the following criteria:

- a. A channel construction that is installed directly into the footway pavement or kerb, that is discreet and flush-fitting to the surface with no trip hazard - no buried cross-pavement solutions will be approved.
- b. Have a shallow construction depth of less than 40mm deep to avoid the need for a utility (stats) search and that minimises the remedial works required.
- c. Have a flexible channel construction so that the channel can be easily installed in uneven pavements with minimal remedial works required.
- d. Have a self-closing lid that lies flat to the surface of the ground when the cable is inserted or removed.
- e. Be tested to high British Standards:
 - i. BS EN 1433:2002 British Standard for drainage channels for vehicular and pedestrian areas.
 - ii. BS EN 124:2015 British Standard for gully tops and manhole tops for

vehicular and pedestrian areas.

- iii. BS-EN-16165:2021 British Standard for determination of slip resistance of pedestrian surfaces.
- f. A channel must be recyclable at end of life.
- g. Provide a good level of customer service, including post-installation support and product guarantee of at least 10 years.
- h. The channel supplier must provide an end-to-end fully supplier managed process. This includes but not limited to:
 - i. Promotion.
 - ii. Be the first point of contact for applicants.
 - iii. Undertake initial eligibility and detailed site assessment, including site surveys where required.
 - iv. Collate all required permissions and submit to the Council before the final s178 licence will be issued. This includes planning permission where required, proof of appropriate insurance cover and that an EV chargepoint that meets required standards has been installed. The supplier must support applicants through these processes.
- i. The channel supplier must agree to sign the Memorandum of Understanding that sets out the expectation of the relationship between the supplier, the Council and the resident. This includes input into the Council's monitoring and evaluation of the trial, including providing data.
- j. The channel supplier must appoint an NRSWA-accredited contractor to undertake the installations and provide them with all necessary training to carry out the works safely, in accordance with the S171 licence conditions, the NRSWA, and the Safety at Street Works and Road Works Code of Practice.

If your EV cable channel product meets the specification criteria and you would like to express your interest, please email electricvehicles@cambridgeshire.gov.uk. More information will then be provided, including additional criteria a supplier must meet. A proforma will need to be completed and submitted that demonstrates how you meet each criterion. The Council will assess responses and evaluate each criterion on a pass/fail basis. Only suppliers that evidence they meet each criterion will be approved as a supplier as part of the trial.

The expression of interest window will be open for 6 weeks until 5pm Wednesday 28th January 2026 and then will close for the period of the trial. All submissions must be received by this date. We will expect any approved supplier to be ready to accept applications from residents by 1st April at the latest, and will work with suppliers to seek ways to expedite the launch date to accept applications earlier if possible,

Following the trial period, if roll-out of the solution is approved by the Council, the approved supplier(s) will join the Council's approved list and remain as listed on the website. The opportunity to express an interest to become a new approved supplier may be reopened, dependent on the conclusions and recommendations of the trial, and subject to gaining council approval.