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# Expression of Interest (EOI)

**North Northamptonshire Council is seeking to host formal supplier interviews to discuss the delivery of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in North Northamptonshire. The Department for Transport awarded £2,895,000 to North Northamptonshire Council through Tranche 1 of the LEVI initiative. The authority plans to conduct a procurement exercise to appoint a supplier who will invest funds alongside the public funding to deploy and manage charge points in on-street and car park locations across the breadth of the area. This EOI forms part of the pre-procurement phase of this project.**

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# Section 1: Introduction

* 1. North Northamptonshire Council is wishing to invite Expressions of Interest to attend one-to-one meetings with the Council ahead of the finalisation of the Invitation to Tender documentation and the start of the formal procurement.
	2. The proposed arrangement between the Council and supplier will involve a Concession Contract with specific requirements for the provision of end-to-end services, including turnkey solutions for all aspects of the goods, works, and services necessary to design, plan, construct, install, operate, and maintain a smart EV charging estate.
	3. NNC is adopting a portfolio approach to EVI delivery, encompassing on-street locations in towns and villages to serve concentrations of properties without access to off-street parking, as well as installations in NNC owned public car park sites.
	4. The public funding is to support the capital cost of delivery and can include:
* The purchase cost of the charging units.
* Other hardware costs associated with the installation.
* The cost of associated electrical connection components, including distribution network operator (DNO) connection costs.
* The costs of civil engineering works related to the installation.
* Labour costs for the installation.
* The applicable, reasonable, and invoiced capital costs of associated planning, including section 50 licences, parking bay installation, signage, lighting, and required traffic regulation orders (TRO).
	1. **Please note:** This EOI is not a formal request for competition and will not directly result in a contract award.

# Section 2: Confidentiality and Freedom of Information (FOI)

## **Please note:** all information included in this EOI is confidential and only for the recipients’ knowledge. No information included in this document or in discussions connected to it may be disclosed to any other party without prior written authorisation.

# Section 3: Background

* 1. North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) is a relatively new local authority, established in April 2021. In July 2021, at the earliest opportunity, it declared a climate emergency and committed to becoming carbon neutral (net zero) by 2030.
	2. To demonstrate its commitment to tackling climate change, the authority has established a million-pound climate change investment fund. Alongside other initiatives, this is helping to support the transition of the fleet to EVs. For a new council, the authority has a strong track-record of collaborating with the private sector to deliver innovative projects that advance net zero ambitions. This includes leading one of the largest e-scooter trials in the country and two delivery robot pilots. Additionally, NNC has prior experience of delivering on-street charge points through a successful Innovate UK sponsored project. These activities have led to the authority being shortlisted and commended in various national awards.
	3. NNC is keen to find an innovative supplier, with the right capability and experience, to work with it help drive the transition to EVs in the area.
	4. At the time of the 2021 Census, North Northants had a population of c.360,000 living in c.148,900 households.   The area has a multi-centric geography with four principal towns of Corby (c.68,000 population), Kettering (c.63,000), Wellingborough (c.54,500) and Rushden (c.31,000) along with eight other market towns ranging from Desborough (c.12,000) to Oundle (c.6,200 population).
	5. Data sourced from the local Land and Property Gazetteer indicates there are c.65,000 properties in North Northants designated as terraced or flats (that is almost 44% of all households). The majority of these properties do not have access to off-street parking. About 70% of terraces and flats are in the larger towns of Corby, Kettering, Wellingborough and Rushden.  Providing EV charging solutions for households without access to off-street parking is the central driver for this procurement.  The Council’s EV Infrastructure (NNEVI) Strategy, adopted in July 2024, has a target that there will be EVCPs in all 12 towns by end of 2025.
	6. The area has an attractive rural hinterland with over 100 parishes, containing many villages and hamlets.  This includes larger villages with ten having more than 200 households without access to off-street parking, including Earls Barton and Finedon with c.1,000 households, and Irchester and Wollaston with over 600. None of these villages currently have publicly available EV charging infrastructure.
	7. Due to a variety of factors, including proximity to the South East, good connectivity, an attractive environment and adopted Local Plan, North Northants is an area of high growth.  Between the 2011 and 2021 Census, its population increased by 13.5%.  This compares to 6.6% in the same period for England and 7.7% for the East Midlands.  It also has a relatively young population with a median age of 40 years.
	8. The area also has a relatively high car ownership rate of 84%. Research based on the 2021 Census by Howdens Insurance ranked North Northamptonshire along the top 10 areas for highest car ownership per household.

# Section 4: Organisation & Contact Details for Supplier Interviews

4.1 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Network Operators interested in working with the Council, and able to meet the broad requirements laid out in this document, should return this Expression of Interest form via email to procurement@northnorthants.gov.uk by **17:00hrs on Tuesday August 13, 2024.** You will then be contacted to attend a supplier interview to take place on the week commencing on August 19, 2024.

4.2 Network operators who do express their interest will be provided with a presentation including the list of questions that NNC officers plan to ask during the dialogue. They will also have access to a data room following the dialogue. This will include a preliminary list of on-street and car park locations that we plan to include as part of our procurement. **Please note: This is a preliminary list and changes are extremely likely to be made prior to undergoing a formal procurement process.**

| **Contact Details**  |
| --- |
| *Potential Supplier contact details*  |
| 2.1. (a) | Contact name | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (b) | Name of organisation | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (c) | Role in organisation | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (d) | Phone number | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (e) | E-mail address | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (f) | Postal address*including postcode* | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (g) | Signature*electronic is acceptable* | Click to enter text. |
| 2.1. (h) | Date | Click to enter date. |