

The information contained in this document is no longer relevant and does not reflect the council's current policy.

Please see our new information on electric vehicles and charging [here](#)

Electric Vehicles and Charging - Frequently Asked Questions

What are the council's plans to help manage and accommodate the increasing demand for electric vehicles [EVs] and ways to charge them?

The council fully recognises that greater availability of accessible electric vehicle charging points [EVCPs] is key to increasing the uptake of EVs, especially when responding to residents' requests. In 2015, the council's Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee reviewed the background, and agreed its future approach, to upgrading and installing more EVCPs on the city's streets. This is set out in the [committee report](#).

What is the council already doing to accommodate the increasing demand for EV's and Charging Infrastructure?

The council has already allocated approximately £50,000 per year to increase on-street and public car park EVCP provision. It is also exploring the use of Government grants to invest in this infrastructure and maximise the benefits of its own investment as well as engaging with local interest and possible, associated funding opportunities. Since 2015, the council signed a contract with a company called [Charge Your Car \(CYC\)](#).

How do I request an EVCP in my street or local area?

Work to upgrade the existing EVCPs and increase the overall number in the city is underway. Wherever possible, other initiatives or projects will also include provision for/of EVCPs, such as the development and introduction of new Controlled Parking Zones. It is expected that the new Hanover & Elm Grove scheme will become the first new zone in the city to include EVCPs. Consideration will be given to requests for potential new locations, including those within residential communities and popular destinations within the city. Suggestions can be sent by email to local.transport@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Is there any government funding available for EV infrastructure?

The government's OLEV (Office for Low Emission Vehicles) has grants available for local authorities to respond to individual requests for residential on-street and paid EVCPs. However, the original scheme did not prove to be popular outside of London and the council did not sign up to this initiative, as the commitments required were not considered to provide value for money in terms of funding and resources. The Government has subsequently made further announcements about 'plug-in' grants and published [more information](#) in early 2017. That information has been reviewed by officers, alongside other options to increase EVCP availability.

What is the cost of installing an EVCP?

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The costs of installing a 'fast' EVCP on-street can vary but, on average, between £7,000 and £10,000 would be a reasonable estimate depending on local circumstances.

Who else can provide publicly available EVCPs in the city?

There are a number of other potential providers and the council encourages people to approach and request that supermarkets and businesses consider installing EVCPs in their car parks.

What about petrol filling stations?

Recently, the government published its intention to create a number of new powers including a requirement for the provision of EV infrastructure at motorway service areas and large fuel retailers. Local fuel retailers could also include such provision in order to help increase local availability and the council has therefore made this suggestion in its formal response to the Government during the recent consultation on the draft National Clean Air/Air Quality Plan. The council has now written to these companies to encourage them to consider doing this.

Where can I find more information about EVCPs in the city and elsewhere?

[Zap-map](#) has a comprehensive map of existing charge points.

The growing level of interest in, and use of, EVs in the city also means that local people and communities are starting to participate in promoting awareness about EVs and developing their own networks, such as [Electric Brighton](#), to share information and experiences.

I don't have my own driveway or parking space where I live. How can I charge an EV when I am at home?

A number of residents have raised this and asked about using cables across the pavement. This raises a potentially significant issue about public safety and therefore the council's Highways Team have been investigating possible options that could ensure any such activity would be undertaken safely and within existing legislation. They have concluded that the use of a heavy duty, non-slip/rubber cable protector mat to cover the cable is considered to be the most suitable solution. However, any piece of equipment that is being used to cover a cable that is crossing the pavement/highway should be:

- Suitable for highway use i.e. should be able to protect the cable from vehicles crossing it, whilst still not creating a trip hazard.
- Must be anti-slip.
- Must be brightly coloured.

Do I need a permit or license for a cable?

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Whilst the use of this type of equipment is not currently subject to requiring a highway license, the council does review its various [policies](#) periodically and they can change.

However, anyone who owns, or has identified, an item that appears to fulfil this criteria and who requires any further advice or confirmation, can email highwayobstructions@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Is the council looking at any other innovative ways or energy efficient technologies to charge EVs in the city?

The council has also fully recognised the potential that street lights could also play, and it already has a planned programme to replace street lights with new energy efficient LED lighting, which can significantly reduce carbon emissions and also include the potential to introduce 'smart technology' into the lamp columns. This can provide not only better control over individual lamps to ensure accurate switching on and off and fault reporting/repair times, but also has the potential for wider uses such as EV charging. We are aware of other schemes in other authorities and are following their progress.

How will the city cope with the extra demands for EVCPs because of all the new homes that are planned?

The council has planning policies to help accommodate and manage growth in the city. One way of doing that is to provide [guidance about parking](#) in new developments for developers who want to submit a planning application. The guidance provides advice about including EVCPs in development proposals at the very start and enabling parking to be adapted for EVCPs in the future.

Why aren't there more Rapid EVCPs in the city so that people can charge their vehicle more quickly? Rapid EVCPs require significant electrical connections and are very large and therefore are not very suitable to be placed on many of the city's streets. The city's only Rapid EVCP is at Withdean Stadium and was installed as part of a previous, wider programme of Government investment across South East England between 2013 and 2015 by a consortium of local authorities called 'energise'. The [energise website](#) can provide further information about EV infrastructure and associated news across the South East region.

Can I have a dedicated space in my street to park my EV?

The Council only allocates spaces on-street for EVs in association with a charging point, in line with legislation. Without a charging point, a space in a residential street could become a dedicated parking bay for any electric vehicle (and therefore most likely the requestor). It is considered that this type of priority parking marking is not covered by the relevant legislation, and therefore it does not form part of the council's current parking policies. The council also does not sell (or hire) parts of the public highway in this way, or for similar purposes, if requested.

