

# Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Wednesday 27 January 2021  
Time: 12.00 pm  
Venue:

## Membership

Councillor Peter Butlin  
Councillor Heather Timms

Items on the agenda: -

1. **BEIS Low Carbon Skills Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

3 - 16

**Monica Fogarty**  
Chief Executive  
Warwickshire County Council  
Shire Hall, Warwick

## Disclaimers

### Disclosures of Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests

Members are required to register their disclosable pecuniary interests within 28 days of their election of appointment to the Council. A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which s/he has a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless s/he has a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if s/he has not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- Must leave the meeting room until the matter has been dealt with
- Give written notice of any unregistered interest to the Monitoring Officer within 28 days of the meeting

Non-pecuniary interests must still be declared in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

These should be declared at the commencement of the meeting

The public reports referred to are available on the Warwickshire Web

<https://democracy.warwickshire.gov.uk/uuCoverPage.aspx?bcr=1>

### Public Speaking

Any member of the public who is resident or working in Warwickshire, or who is in receipt of services from the Council, may speak at the meeting for up to three minutes on any matter within the remit of the Committee. This can be in the form of a statement or a question. If you wish to speak please notify Democratic Services in writing at least two working days before the meeting. You should give your name and address and the subject upon which you wish to speak. Full details of the public speaking scheme are set out in the Council's Standing Orders.

**Proposed Decisions to be taken under the Council's  
Urgency Procedure by the Portfolio Holder Environment  
and Heritage & Culture and the Deputy Leader (Finance and  
Property) on 27 January 2021**

**BEIS Low Carbon Skills Fund and  
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme**

<b>Lead Members</b>	<b>Councillor Heather Timms Councillor Peter Butlin</b>
<b>Date of decisions</b>	<b>27th January 2021</b>
	<b>Signed</b>

<b>Decision</b>
<p>That the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage &amp; Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provides approval for WCC officers to confirm the bid for and commit to acceptance of revenue grant funding for an application made under the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Low Carbon Skills Fund in the event that the application is successful.</li> <li>2) Provides approval for WCC officers to confirm the bid for capital grant funding for an application made under the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).</li> </ol> <p>That subject to the bid outlined in recommendation 2 being successful the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Commits to the acceptance of capital grant funding for an application made under the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and to its subsequent addition to the Capital Programme.</li> </ol>

## Reasons for decisions

The approval of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture is required under the constitution in order to bid for grant funding. A conditional submission has been made to the BEIS Low Carbon Skills Fund for consultancy funding and to the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme for capital funding on 11 January 2021 which remains subject to this Portfolio Holder approval.

Final confirmation of the grant value to be applied for was determined on 11 January 2021. To meet the scheme deadlines, it was necessary to make an application for funding on 11 January 2021. There was not sufficient time to seek and receive Portfolio Holder approval to apply for both the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Low Carbon Skills Fund prior to the submission deadline. Therefore, urgent approval is sought to confirm the submission along with the approval to accept any grant monies awarded.

If the PSDS bid is successful and accepted it will require addition to the Capital Programme and will need to be spent by 31 March 2021. For this to be able to occur, the agreement of the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) is required.

## 1.0 Background information

This report covers the submission of a grant funding application to BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) capital grant funding scheme and a further submission to the BEIS Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) for consultancy funding.

The County Council received a grant of £95,000 of funding on 18 December 2020 under the LCSF to employ consultants to conduct energy surveys on buildings. The purpose of the survey work has been to develop proposals for decarbonising buildings by reducing the demand for gas by improving insulation levels, replacing gas heating systems with low carbon heating systems, and by installing solar panels to reduce the estate electricity bill.

Initial energy survey work was finalised on 11 January 2021 providing the information and evidence to make an application for capital funding to the PSDS. The PSDS has been developed by BEIS to provide public sector bodies 100% capital finance to fund the implementation of low and zero carbon technologies to building stock.

The deadline for application to the PSDS was 11 January 2021 and a conditional submission was made for £301,803 to meet that deadline subject to this portfolio holder's approval. Feedback on our application is expected at the beginning of February 2021. If we are successful in receiving funding, this would need to be completed by 31 March 2021.

Parallel to the PSDS is an opportunity to receive funding to employ consultants to develop a heat decarbonisation plan (HDP). Funding for the HDP is provided under the LCSF. The purpose of a HDP is to describe how WCC intends to replace fossil fuel reliant systems with low carbon alternatives. A HDP describes the current state of an organisation's energy use, what it has done to reduce energy use, and its plans for reducing and/or decarbonising its energy use in the future. The plan explains what actions are going to be taken, over what timescales, and the intended outcomes.

Further energy surveys funded by the LCSF are continuing and will be completed by 31 January 2021. Reports from these further surveys can be used for any future tranches of the PSDS.

## 2.0 Financial implications and Key Risks

This application is for 100% grant funding. Both applications will be either fully approved or rejected. There will be no requirement to provide matched funding.

Where capital grant money is received under the PSDS, contractors will be employed to implement the works. There is a requirement to complete this work by the 31 March 2021 unless this deadline can be extended due to reasons including delay of notification of grant, supply chain delays and contractor availability due to a combination of the impact of COVID-19 and EU Exit. During this time, there will be a requirement for management of the contractors by the Council's property team.

Consultants engaged to complete a HDP will be required to finalise their work by 30 September 2021. During this time, there would be support to the consultants by involving the Council staff from property, energy and the Portfolio Management Office (project management).

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Fund Application - Key Risks for WCC			
No	Risk	Impact	Mitigation
1	The deadline for application for funding is missed.	WCC miss the opportunity to receive grant funding. This funding will assist WCC in making progress to our zero-carbon target.	WCC have submitted an application to the PSDS on 11 January.
2	Proposals for capital funding that cannot be delivered by 31 March 2021 are unlikely to be funded.	Public money used to employ energy consultants and office time is wasted by not focusing on projects that could be funded.	We have prioritised surveys on buildings and projects where work could be completed by 31 March in order to make our application to the PSDS.

Low Carbon Skills Fund Application - Key Risks for WCC			
No	Risk	Impact	Mitigation
1	The deadline for application for funding is missed.	WCC miss the opportunity to receive grant funding. This funding will assist WCC in making progress to our zero-carbon target.	WCC have submitted an application to the PSDS on 11 January.

### 3.0 Environmental implications

An application to the PSDS and LCSF supports the council commitment to reaching net zero carbon by 2030. Specifically, key commitments are to:

1. Reduce our energy consumption by improving the energy efficiency of our buildings and make our corporate buildings carbon neutral.
2. Substantially increase our renewable energy generation.

A range of technologies can be supported, although it is intended principally to fund schemes to replace gas heating systems with low carbon alternatives. Based on 2019/20 data, gas consumption is responsible for 32% of the carbon emissions from our corporate building estate. We recognise that as the grid decarbonises that this proportion will grow in the absence of any action. Whilst there is an ongoing programme of upgrade and replacement of building plant and fabric, this is often only at point of failure due to restrictions in council funding.

It is therefore a key priority to reduce gas consumption within the timeframe to 2030 in order to meet our zero-carbon goal. A successful application to this grant scheme will accelerate progress towards this goal.

If we were to receive funding from our complete application of £301,803 to the PSDS we would save approximately 40 tCO<sub>2</sub>e p.a. from our corporate estate. Were there to be a further round of PSDS funding we would anticipate significantly greater benefits.

If we were to receive funding from our application for a HDP we would have a detailed action plan in place to reduce and/or decarbonising its energy use in accordance with our net zero carbon target across our entire estate.

### 4.0 Timescales Associated with the Decision and Next Steps

This decision is made no later than 27 January 2021.

A conditional submission on the 11 January 2021 has been made which remains subject to this Portfolio Holder approval.

Feedback on our application to the PSDS and LCSF is expected at the beginning of February.
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<b>Report Author</b>	Matt Whitehead
<b>Assistant Director</b>	Steve Smith
<b>Lead Director</b>	Rob Powell
<b>Lead Members</b>	Councillor Heather Timms Councillor Peter Butlin

<b>Urgent matter?</b>	Yes
<b>Confidential or exempt?</b>	No
<b>Is the decision contrary to the budget and policy framework?</b>	No

<b>List of background papers</b>
None

<b>Members and officers consulted and informed</b>
Portfolio Holder – Councillor Heather Timms
Deputy Leader (Finance and Property) – Councillor Peter Butlin
Corporate Board – Rob Powell
Legal – Nichola Vine
Finance – Andy Felton, Virginia Rennie
Equality – Keira Rounsley
Democratic Services – Paul Williams, Helen Barnsley
Councillors – Member of the climate emergency cross-party group (Councillors Timms, Adkins, Chilvers, Falp, Fradgley, Redford, Birdi, Williams).
Councillor (For consent to urgency) - Councillor Golby and Councillor Adrian Warwick
Opposition Leaders – For information

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<b>CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION</b>	<b>PART 1</b> (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
<b>Proposed Decision Maker</b> <i>(please name person or body proposing to take decision, if an officer also state title)</i>	<b>Date for Decision</b>	
Councillor Heather Timms / Councillor Peter Butlin	25 Jan 2021	
<b>Title:</b> BEIS Low Carbon Skills Fund and Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme		
<b>Summary of matter</b>  Approval to confirm bids for grant funding from BEIS and receive that funding in the event the application is successful.		
<b>Proposed Decision</b>  That the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Provides approval for WCC officers to confirm the bid for and commit to acceptance of revenue grant funding for an application made under the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Low Carbon Skills Fund in the event that the application is successful.</li> <li>2) Provides approval for WCC officers to confirm the bid for capital grant funding for an application made under the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).</li> </ol> That subject to the bid outlined in recommendation 2 being successful the Deputy Leader (Finance and Property): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3) Commits to the acceptance of capital grant funding for an application made under the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and to its subsequent addition to the Capital Programme.</li> </ol>		

**Reasons for Urgency**

The decision is required under the Council's urgency procedure owing to.....

Final confirmation of the grant value to be applied for was determined on 11 January 2021. To meet the scheme deadlines, it was necessary to make an application for funding on 11 January 2021. There was not sufficient time to seek and receive portfolio holder approval to apply for both the BEIS Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Low Carbon Skills Fund prior to the submission deadline. If the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme bid is successful and accepted it will require addition to the Capital Programme and will need to be spent by 31 March 2021. Therefore, urgent approval is sought to confirm the submission along with the approval to accept any grant monies awarded.

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** *[please identify relevant plan/budget provision]*

No

**PART 2** (to be completed by the person giving consent)

**Name**

**Councillor: Clare Golby**

**Office Held**

**Chair of the Communities OSC**

*Signed*



**Date consent is given**

25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

<b>CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION</b>	<b>PART 1</b> (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
<b>Proposed Decision Maker</b> <i>(please name person or body proposing to take decision, if an officer also state title)</i>		<b>Date for Decision</b>
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?** *[please identify relevant plan/budget provision]*

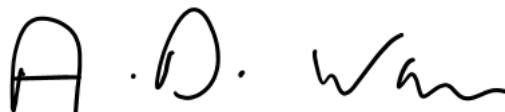
No

**PART 2** (to be completed by the person giving consent)

<b>Name</b>	<b>Councillor: Adrian Warwick</b>
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<b>Office Held</b>	<b>Chair of the Resources and Fire and Rescue OSC</b>
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*Signed*



<b>Date consent is given</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
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