

# Portfolio Holder Decisions/Leader Decisions

Date: Wednesday 21 September 2022

Time: 12.00 pm

## Membership

Councillor Margaret Bell

Items on the agenda: -

### 1. Air Quality Grant bid to DEFRA

3 - 8

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

To download papers for this meeting scan here with your camera



## Disclaimers

### Webcasting and permission to be filmed

Please note that this meeting will be filmed for live broadcast on the internet and can be viewed on line at [warwickshire.public-i.tv](http://warwickshire.public-i.tv). Generally, the public gallery is not filmed, but by entering the meeting room and using the public seating area you are consenting to being filmed. All recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders.

### 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. Any changes to matters registered or new matters that require to be registered must be notified to the Monitoring Officer as soon as practicable after they arise.

A member attending a meeting where a matter arises in which they have a disclosable pecuniary interest must (unless they have a dispensation):

- Declare the interest if they have not already registered it
- Not participate in any discussion or vote
- 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 relevant to the agenda 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.

### COVID-19 Pandemic

Any member or officer of the Council or any person attending this meeting must inform Democratic Services if within a week of the meeting they discover they have COVID-19 or have been in close proximity to anyone found to have COVID-19.

## Portfolio Holder Decision Air Quality Grant bid to DEFRA

<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	<b>Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care &amp; Health</b>
<b>Date of decision</b>	<b>23 September 2022</b>
	<b>Signed</b>

### 1. Decision taken

- 1 That the Portfolio Holder approves a submission for a funding bid to the Air Quality Grant Scheme 2022/2023 from The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which is open to all Local Authorities in England.

### 2. Reasons for decisions

- 2.1 The report asks the Portfolio Holder to approve a submission of a funding bid for the Air Quality Grant 2022/2023. The County Council's Constitution requires that Portfolio Holders approve any bid for funding in excess of £250,000 or that will commit the Council to funding in excess of £50,000 that cannot be met from a service's allocated budget.
- It is anticipated that that the bid will be for a total project value of £530,250 requiring a local contribution of £53,025, being 10% of the project cost being a stipulation of the grant application process.

### 3. Background information

- 3.1 Each year DEFRA makes available the Air Quality Grant for which any Local Authority in England can make a bid. The aim of the grant is to improve air quality at local level to assist in the compliance with statutory provisions nationally. Additionally, there is an emphasis on education and raising awareness of issues of pollution in the general public and vulnerable groups, including children.
- 3.2 This year the total budget for the grant is estimated to be £7m. Each individual bid has a ceiling of £650,000 for a single bid or £1m for a joint bid.
- 3.3 The deadline for submissions is 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2022. The outcome of bid process will be notified to applicants in February 2023. Funding will be provided for the financial year 2023/24 but bids will be looked on favourably if the project continues beyond the funding period.
- 3.4 Warwickshire County Council Public Health proposes to make a single bid for funding from Lot 2 of the grant which is concerned with the education and

- awareness raising aims of the scheme. The proposal is to build on work already in progress with secondary schools and introduce systems to monitor internal and external air quality in a sample of 25 primary schools across the county. A target of 5 schools per District or Borough Council will be sought. Where applicable, schools within or in close proximity to Air Quality Management Areas will be included. School liaison will occur on award of the grant.
- 3.5 In order to accurately measure the actual air quality at these schools, each will be provided with an air quality monitoring system allowing up to 30 rooms to be sampled for temperature, humidity, CO2 concentration, particulate matter and Radon. Additionally, 2 external monitoring points will be provided to measure temperature, humidity, NO2, particulate matter and air pressure. External monitoring points would normally be at the school entrance and main playground. Data from all monitoring points is collated and displayed via a dashboard accessible by site. Sample data may be displayed for parents and children in school reception and at the main entrance.
- 3.6 The results of the monitoring will lead to improvements in internal air quality at each site as practices are developed to improve ventilation or changes are made to the structure such as increased opening lights to window sets. The use of the existing air filtration units at these schools could also be targeted to reduce particulate matter pollution in particular.
- 3.7 Most importantly for grant application purposes, the data can form the basis of an educational plan to improve knowledge of air pollution among teachers, pupils and parents alike. Training will be given to teachers on the interpretation of the data and a slide pack as a basis for educating the children. Project work is envisaged whereby children utilise the existing CO2 monitors at these schools to investigate air quality at home and engage parents with possible improvements. Pre- and post-project questionnaires will be utilised to help judge the success of the educational aspects of the project, especially with parents.
- 3.8 Generic learning from the project will be shared throughout the primary school estate.
- 3.9 The initial project will run for 1 year with the backing of DEFRA. WCC will retain ownership of the monitoring equipment which is also capable of relocation. This will allow a second and third project to be developed to engage another 50 schools across the county over an additional 2-year period. If deemed worthwhile, the process could be repeated in another 25 schools each year until the full primary school estate has been examined. Additional budget would be required for any projects after year 3.

#### 4. Financial implications

- 4.1 The proposed project has a cost estimate of £530,250 and part of the grant conditions is a requirement for 10% match funding. The match funding contribution of £53,025 will be funded from a £1,500,000 allocation from the Control Outbreak Management Fund for a school ventilation project started in August, 2021.
- 4.2 The project cost includes licence fees and extended warranties for a three-year period for all hardware. This allows for two additional annual projects at different schools at no additional cost.
- 4.3 Any further projects utilising this hardware would attract an additional cost of

£68.00/sensor for the internal monitoring equipment licence and warranty. This equates to £56,100/year for the 825 sensors purchased via the Air Quality Grant.

4.4 Additionally, further projects would attract an additional cost of £636.00/external sensor for licence and warranty purposes. This equates to £31,800/year for the 50 external sensors purchased via the Air Quality Grant.

4.5 There is no funding available to support the extension of the project beyond the schools covered by the grant bid. The relative benefits of funding the annual £87,900 cost would need to be considered alongside other spending pressures as part of the MTFs Refresh once all the grant funding has been utilised.

## 5. Environmental implications

5.1 The project is expected to lead to improved internal air quality standards at the schools partaking, resulting from improved knowledge which leads to better operational practices and ventilation standards. Improved learning environment would ensue.

5.2 Additionally, improved local outdoor pollution standards would result from parent engagement around the use of motor vehicles when transporting children to school.

<b>Report Author</b>	Stuart E Bird stuartbird@warwickshire.gov.uk, 01926 476682
<b>Assistant Director</b>	shadeagboolda@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Strategic Director</b>	nigelminns@warwickshire.gov.uk
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	margretbell@warwickshire.gov.uk

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

## List of background papers

None

## Members and officers consulted and informed

Portfolio Holder – Councillor Margaret Bell

Corporate Board – Nigel Minns

Legal – Nichola Vine

Finance – Andrew Felton

Equality – n/a

Democratic Services – Isabelle Moorhouse

Councillors – Clare Golby (Chair of ASCH OSC for Consent to Urgency)

Local Member(s): n/a

<b>CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION</b>	<b>PART 1</b> (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
<b>Proposed Decision Maker</b>	Cllr Margaret Bell	<b>Date for Decision</b>
Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care and Health		
<b>Title:</b> <b>Approval to Bid for Funds from DEFRA Air Quality Grant 2023</b>		
<b>Summary of matter</b> Each year DEFRA offer the opportunity to bid for a portion of the Air Quality Grant to all Local Authorities in England. This year a fund of £7m is available. Individual bids cannot exceed £650,000 or no more than £1m for joint bids. The grant is divided into 2 lots. Warwickshire Public Health would like to bid for funds from Lot 2 which focuses on raising awareness of issues relating to air quality and pollution. This would be targeted at a sample of 25 primary schools shared evenly between the District and Borough Councils. Each school would receive an air quality monitoring system for a 12-month period in conjunction with educational materials and projects for pupils to complete. Both internal and external air quality would be measured. Teachers, pupils and parents would be engaged by this process. The aim would be to improve air quality in schools and raise awareness of such issues locally. The process could be repeated in other schools using the same equipment which could be relocated for another two years at minimal cost. All learning would be shared across the school's estate as the projects develop. The bid would be for £530,250 with a mandatory 10% contribution from Warwickshire County Council. Funding for the Council's mandatory 10% contribution has been identified from within existing resources and therefore does not create an additional budget pressure to be funded as part of the 2023/2024 MTFS.		
<b>Proposed Decision</b> 1 That the Portfolio Holder approves the submission of a bid for funding under the Air Quality Grant Scheme 2022/2023 from The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to support a project to introduce systems to monitor internal and external air quality in a sample of primary schools across the county (as set out in Section 3 below).		
<b>Reasons for urgency</b> The closing date for submissions for the grant is midday on 23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2022. Given the relatively short submission window of 8 weeks taking place across the school holiday period, the fact that the proposal relates to school premises, the continued Covid-19 work within Public Health and the added impact on publication dates due to the official mourning period, it has not been possible to meet the usual requirements for publication. Therefore, it is requested that the decision be taken under the urgency procedure pursuant to Standing Order 18 of the Warwickshire County Council Constitution.		
<b>Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?</b> <i>[please identify relevant plan/budget provision]</i>		
No		

<b>PART 2</b> (to be completed by the person giving consent)	
<b>Name</b>	Councillor Clare Golby
<b>Office Held</b>	<b>Chair of the Adult Social Care &amp; Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
	
<b>Date consent is given</b>	16 <sup>th</sup> September, 2022