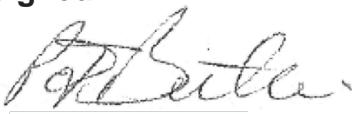


**Proposed Decisions to be taken under the Council's
Urgency Procedure by the Portfolio Holder Environment
and Heritage & Culture and the Deputy Leader (Finance and
Property) on 27 January 2021**

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

Lead Members	Councillor Heather Timms Councillor Peter Butlin
Date of decisions	27th January 2021
	Signed  

Decision
<p>That the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Heritage & Culture:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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). <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"> 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.

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 tCO₂e 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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Report Author	Matt Whitehead
Assistant Director	Steve Smith
Lead Director	Rob Powell
Lead Members	Councillor Heather Timms Councillor Peter Butlin

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

List of background papers
None

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

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

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

25th January 2021

CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION	PART 1 (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
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Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? *[please identify relevant plan/budget provision]*

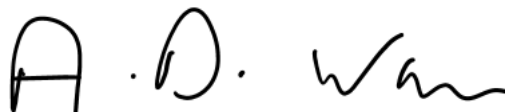
No

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

Name	Councillor: Adrian Warwick
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Office Held	Chair of the Resources and Fire and Rescue OSC
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Signed



Date consent is given	25 th January 2021
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