

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 - Peter Butlin For information - Councillor Heather Timms	25 April 2024	

Summary of matter

This report concerns a recommendation that approval is granted for officers to apply for, and to spend if successful, Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) grant monies. LCSF is a scheme awarding funding to public bodies for the employment of consultants on a short-term basis to deliver Heat Decarbonisation Strategies, and develop a pipeline of investment ready projects, in line with the net zero carbon reduction targets as set out in the Council Plan. The Surveys in this request are then detailed enough to support the next phase which is to develop a strategic project development and make an application to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) application for Capital Grant funding to deliver the works.

Please note this PSDS Grant funding application would require the Council to provide 12% match capital grant funding for all applications made under the PSDS phase 2 and to its subsequent addition to the Capital Programme.

The output of the work carried out by the consultant will act as part of the evidence pack used to apply for the upcoming capital grant fund: for example, the PSDS. There is a requirement to complete work funded by the LCSF grant by the 31 March 2025.

Funding from the PSDS will provide part funded capital grant to enable works to be contracted for the implementation of low and zero carbon technologies.

The deadline for application to the Phase 5 LCSF is 1 May 2024. Meeting this deadline is critical if WCC is to receive the LCSF revenue grant funding.

Based on the funding criteria, the 2024 application will include the following asset list, which has been selected for the LCSF survey fund this year:

- 1 Stratford Upon-Avon Fire Station
- 2 Eliot Park Innovation Centre
- 3 Shire Hall Complex
- 4 County Museum (Market Hall)
- 5 St John's House Museum
- 6 Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters
- 7 Rugby Fire Station

Proposed Decision

That the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property agrees to support the proposed LCSF bid to obtain funding to support with developing property surveys for the following assets: -

- 1 Stratford Upon-Avon Fire Station
- 2 Eliot Park Innovation Centre
- 3 Shire Hall Complex
- 4 County Museum (Market Hall)
- 5 St John's House Museum
- 6 Fire & Rescue Service Headquarters (Leamington Spa)
- 7 Rugby Fire Station

On the understanding that these surveys will also support a future phase and bids for PSDS grant funding round, anticipated to be launched on September 2024.

Reasons for Urgency

The decision is required under the Council's urgency procedure owing to provide approval to WCC officers to submit a bid for Phase 5 Low Carbon Skills Funding available to public bodies.

Prior publication of the Portfolio Holder Decision report has not been possible within the timeline allowed by Salix for preparing and submitting bids to the fund, the submission deadline for which is 01 May 2024. The window for submitting bids was announced to the Council on 14th March 2024 with key staff able to attend the Salix information webinar on 9th April 2024 to fully understand the requirements of the bid.

The bid portal officially opened Tuesday 17th April 2024 and is due to close on 1st May 2024. As a result, it has not been possible to seek normal approval and receive Portfolio Holder decision in time to apply for the Low Carbon Skills Fund prior to the submission portal opening.

Following the normal decision route meant delays and would prevent the Council from seeking external funding to advance a decarbonisation pipeline projects that directly supports the Council's objective to achieve net zero by 2030 as a Council.

Therefore, urgent approval is sought to confirm the submission.

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

Office Held Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. D. Warwick', written in a cursive style.

Date consent is given

23/04/2024