

Report of	Meeting	Date
Director of Communities Introduced by Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member (Health and Wellbeing)	Cabinet	Wednesday, 17 November 2021

Is this report confidential?	No
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Is this decision key?	Yes
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Savings or expenditure amounting to greater than £100,000	Significant impact on 2 or more council wards
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Low Carbon Skills Funding, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Air Quality Grant

Purpose of the Report

- To provide members with an update to the latest air quality and decarbonisation grant bids.
- To grant approval for the council to make the necessary contributions towards grant funding, should the council be successful with the grant bids, namely;

Grant	Total Grant (excluding contribution)	Council Contribution
Air Quality	£254,270	£28,241
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Phase 3	£3,568,200	£203,000

Recommendations to Cabinet

- That should the Council be successful in its phase 3 Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) grant application, approval is granted to provide a contribution of £300,000, comprising the required 'like for like' fossil fuel replacement contribution of £203,000 and a contingency of £97,000.
- Note that should the Council be successful in its 2021 Air Quality grant application match funding contribution of £28,241 will be required of which £11,995 will be existing budgeted officer time and £16,246 from the existing Climate Emergency & Air Quality Budget.

Reasons for recommendations

5. In September 2021, Full Council approved the submission of a PSDS, phase 3 grant application, including a capital contribution of up to £500,000. The exact sum to be approved by the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing.
6. At the same September meeting it was also agreed that the Council would submit an application as part of the DEFRA Air Quality Grant Scheme. Following final release of the scheme it was found that the scheme had been divided into two lots. The grant application submitted covered works under 'Lot 1' and are largely capital works. These require a contribution of 10% of the total grant application.

Other options considered and rejected

7. The Council do not agree to contribute the required sums. This will result in the grant bids not being accepted, no decarbonisation works being undertaken to the 'Big 6' buildings and no air quality improvements being undertaken. It is also likely to jeopardise any future grant application bids.

Corporate priorities

8. The report relates to the following corporate priorities: (please bold all those applicable):

An exemplary council	Thriving communities
A fair local economy that works for everyone	Good homes, green spaces, healthy places

Background to the report

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme

9. The Council has made a commitment to becoming net carbon zero by 2030. This is detailed within the Climate Emergency Declaration in 2019, the Climate Emergency Strategy and Action Plan 2021 and the UK100 Net Zero pledge.
10. To achieve this the council needs to decarbonise its estate among other measures. The PSDS grant scheme will, if successful, allow a significant step towards this goal.
11. Following Council approval in September 2021 and utilising the previously produced decarbonisation plans a grant application has been submitted for Phase 3 of the PSDS.
12. The grant application covers decarbonisation works to the largest energy using buildings within the Council's estate, named the 'Big 6' and consist of;
 - The Civic Centre
 - Moss Side Depot
 - Leyland Leisure Centre
 - Bamber Bridge Leisure Centre
 - Penwortham Leisure Centre

South Ribble Tennis Centre

13. The identified works to these buildings include the replacement of fossil fuel heating systems with Air Source Heat Pumps (ASHP's), Solar PV cells, LED lighting and replacement pumps for the swimming pools.
14. The total grant application is for £3,771,300, of which the Council must contribute the equivalent of the replacement costs for the fossil fuel heating system, calculated at £203,000.
15. At the September Council meeting it was agreed that the PSDS bid could be made with up to £500,000 contribution from the Council, with final approval given to the Cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing, prior to acceptance of any grant offer.
16. The sum requested is therefore significantly below that approved by Full Council.
17. The grant application has, given the significant tight timescales and grant rules, been submitted with the assistance of a specialist contractor but full costings have not been obtained at this time for the works.
18. It is been agreed that the contribution to the grant will be made for the previously approved Leisure Refurbishment budget, in which the initial £500,000 has been set aside for decarbonisation works.
19. It is requested that a contingency of £97,000 is set aside from the initial £500,000 approved budget to cover any unforeseen expenses during the decarbonisation works to give a total contribution of £300k. This safety margin will allow the decarbonisation works to proceed within the time timescale should any issues be encountered without incurring further delays, particularly towards the end of the project.

Air Quality Grant

20. Poor air quality is one of the biggest health concerns of modern times, affecting everyone in society but particularly the young, elderly and immunocompromised.
21. The Council has five declared areas of poor air quality, known as Air Quality Management Areas, for which there is a legal duty to take action to try and improve the air quality within these areas.
22. The Council have made a committed to improving air quality across the borough within the published Air Quality Action Plan 2018.
23. Following approval at the September Council meeting, a grant bid application has been submitted to DEFRA, under Lot 1 of the grant scheme.
24. This covers largely capital works and as such a contribution of 10% is required. The total grant application is for £282,412 or which the Council will need to contribute £28,241.

25. The grant application consists of:

- Traffic Monitoring Systems (automatic number plate recognition cameras),
- Age related cycle training for high schools and community groups within the vicinity of Leyland and Lostock AQMA's, including the purchase of bikes and safety equipment,
- Four cycle hubs to be located at Lostock Hall, Leyland Train Station, Leyland Leisure Centre, King Street car park. The cycle hubs are to be fitted with solar panels, security doors, cameras, pumps – see images Appendix 1
- A case Study looking at HGV reduction within Leyland
- A case study looking at where improvements are required to the cycle network in South Ribble

26. As part of the grant, officer time has been included for the management, co-ordination of the grant work and the delivery of the bike ability programme. This totals £11,995, therefore reducing the Council's actual non-committed contribution to £16,246.

27. The £16,246 is to be sourced from the existing Climate Emergency & Air Quality Budget.

Climate change and air quality

28. The works detailed within this report have a direct and significant benefit on both the Climate Emergency Agenda and the Air Quality work being undertaken by the Council.

Equality and diversity

29. The work to the leisure centres, will assist in the provision of carbo neutral facilities for all residents of the borough.

30. While the provision of bicycles for bike ability training and secure cycle storage will encourage a cheap, healthy mode of transport accessible to all. Improvements to air quality will assist everyone but particularly those within society who are young, elderly, or immunocompromised.

Risk

31. If the council are not successful with the grant applications no contribution will be required, although works to secure the decarbonisation of the buildings will at some point need to be undertaken to achieve the Council's net-zero goal.

32. If successful, the grant awards contain several conditions which must be met. The most significant of these is the timescales in which work must be completed, especially for the decarbonisation works. Failure to achieve the timescales may result in grant funding being reclaimed.

Comments of the Statutory Finance Officer

33. The match funding for these projects are from existing approved budgets. The capital programme will be updated to reflect the grant award values should we be successful.

Comments of the Monitoring Officer

34. There are no concerns from a legal perspective. The importance of the project is self-evident. Clearly any grant conditions will need to be fully complied with.

Background documents

Climate Emergency Declaration,

Climate Emergency Strategy,

Climate Emergency Action Plan,

'Big 6' Decarbonisation Plans

Air Quality Action Plan

Appendices

Appendix 1

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Appendix 1





