

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER OR OFFICER

This form can be used for any decision but **MUST** be used to record:

- any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Councillor
- a key decision taken by a Council Officer

In these circumstances the form must be completed and passed to the Head of Members' Services no later than NOON on the second working day after the day on which the decision is taken. No action may be taken to implement the decision(s) recorded on this form until 7 days have passed and the Head of Members' Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

1. Description of decision

To approve funding from the Climate Change Fund for the projects listed below:

- Daubeney Middle School's application for low energy lighting in the sum of **£11,505.17**.
- Christ Church's application for photovoltaic panels in the sum of **£15,900**.
- Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity's (BRCC) application for insulation, air source heat pump and photovoltaic panels in the sum of **£20,000** subject to planning application being successful.
- Biddenham Upper School's application low energy lighting in the sum of **£10,734.93**.
- Mark Rutherford Upper School's application for low energy lighting in the sum of **£8,870**.
- Community and Voluntary Service's application to replace their old boiler with a new high efficiency condensing boiler, and pump in the sum of **£13,400**.

2. Date of decision

24 April 2011

3. Reasons for decision

To provide match-funding from the Climate Change Fund to support community group projects that will contribute to the reduction of carbon emissions within Bedford Borough.

4. Alternatives considered and rejected

Consideration was given to not fund the listed projects in this decision, however as the projects have been submitted through the Climate Change Fund and meet the approved criteria in relation to contributing to reduce the carbon emissions within the Borough, the rejection of these projects would have a negative impact on the Council, both from the potential reduction of carbon in the borough but also from the public due to rejection of part funding these community projects.

5. How decision is to be funded

The projects can be funded through the Climate Change Fund which is already identified in the Council's capital budget 2011/12.

6. Conflicts of interest

Name of all Executive members who were consulted AND declared a conflict of interest.	Nature of interest	Did Standards Committee give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (if yes give details and date of dispensation)

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

N/A

Signed Don Mudgegan

Date 26th April 2011

Name of Decision Taker ... The Mayor

This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Head of Members' Services as soon as it is completed.

Date decision published: 27th April 2011

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: 10th May 2011

BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO THE MAYOR

Report by Climate Change Officer

SUBJECT: CLIMATE CHANGE FUND PROJECTS

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report summarises the recent interest in the Climate Change Fund and outlines the details of applications for approval for the funding.

1.2 A number of new groups have expressed their interest in the fund recently, including several schools looking at low energy lighting schemes:

1.3 **Six** applications to the Climate Change Fund have been received from the following:

- o Daubeney Middle School,
- o Christ Church, Church
- o Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC)
- o Biddenham Upper School
- o Mark Rutherford Upper School
- o Community and Voluntary Service (CVS)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Mayor considers, and if satisfied, approves funding from the Climate Change Fund for the projects listed below:

- i. Daubeney Middle School's application for low energy lighting in the sum of **£11,505.17**.
- ii. Christ Church's application for photovoltaic panels in the sum of **£15,900**.
- iii. Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity's (BRCC) application for insulation, air source heat pump and photovoltaic panels in the sum of **£20,000** subject to planning application being successful.
- iv. Biddenham Upper School's application low energy lighting in the sum of **£10,734.93**.
- v. Mark Rutherford Upper School's application for low energy lighting in the sum of **£8,870**.
- vi. Community and Voluntary Service's application to replace their old boiler with a new high efficiency condensing boiler, and pump in the sum of **£13,400**.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To allow six further projects to be funded which will help reduce the overall carbon emission in the borough by more than 48 tonnes of carbon per year.

4. IMPLICATIONS

(a) Legal

Section 2(1) of the Local Government Act 2000 enables the Council to promote well-being where it considers this will achieve any one or more of the following three objectives:

- (a) the promotion or improvement of the economic well-being of its area
- (b) the promotion or improvement of the social well-being of its area
- (c) the promotion or improvement of the environmental well-being of its area

It is apparent that by funding these grants the Council would promote or improve the environmental well-being (and also the social well-being having regard to the six facilities to benefit) of the area. There are two requirements for the Council to fulfill in exercising the well-being powers. One is that "in determining whether or how to exercise" the well-being power section 2(3) requires that the Council "must have regard to" its Sustainable Community Strategy and this is dealt with in the Policy Implications below. The other is that "Before exercising the power under section 2(1), a local authority must have regard to any guidance for the time being issued by the Secretary of State about the exercise of that power." The use of the well-being powers is in line with the current statutory Explanatory notes for the Local Government Act 2000:

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/22/notes/contents.

(b) Policy

Corporate Plan:-

Corporate Plan Priority Area/ Theme 2, focuses on: "Managing the impact of climate change and Improving the Environment".

Sustainable Community Strategy:-

Theme 2 "A Greener Borough": Environment and Climate Change – has the goal of: a high quality natural and built environment which is valued and enjoyed by all; which encourages biodiversity and supports the development of a low carbon community, including local

businesses, capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change. In particular, it aims to:

- Minimise carbon emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change focussing on transport, business and homes.
- Minimise domestic and commercial waste production and maximise reuse and recycling.
- Protect and enhance our natural resources including air, soil and water to minimise the impacts of flooding, climate change and pollution
- Improve the understanding, enjoyment and care for the natural and built environment
- Reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

(c) Resource

Funding of £150,000 each year over the next two years is allocated in the Council's Capital Programme. The total estimated cost of all six projects is £147,264.21 and the contribution sought from the climate change fund is £64,510.10 which can be met from the existing budget provision. Use of the fund will reduce the use of fossil fuels, which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions and will promote and improve energy efficiency.

(d) Risk

If the Council does not strive to help the communities of the Borough to reduce their energy consumption and encourage them to generate energy from renewable sources it may have a negative impact on the Council's reputation and its ability to reach future government set targets.

(e) Environmental

Encouraging communities to help reduce their carbon footprint will help mitigate the impacts of climate change.

(f) Equalities

In operating the Climate Change Fund the Council recognises the need to ensure that all residents and organisations of the borough are able to access information on the fund. The fund has been promoted through press articles, presentations and the council's website: www.bedford.gov.uk. Those interested in the application process can also contact the Climate Change Officer on 01234 718259.

5. DETAILS

Background

- 5.1 The Climate Change Fund is a council grant funded scheme that aims to support projects, which contribute to the reduction of the carbon emissions within the Borough and thus contribute towards national reduction targets.
- 5.2 The Fund is open to voluntary and community groups, tenants' and residents' associations, not-for-profit organisations, registered charities, public sector including schools and social enterprises. It covers projects such as: insulation measures, upgrading of heating systems, low energy community lighting schemes and installation of renewable technologies.
- 5.3 The minimum level of grant is £5,000 and the maximum level of grant, which can be applied for from the fund, is £20,000. All monies must be spent within 12 months of an offer being made. Importantly, as a demonstration of commitment applicants will need to provide match funding of at least 50% of the total project cost from other sources.
- 5.4 It is a requirement of the criteria that groups have a legal status, terms of reference and a bank account. Projects must be located within the Borough boundary. Private businesses and individual households & groups of houses are not eligible.
- 5.5 Various groups have recently expressed their interest in the fund, including more schools and community facilities as set out below.

Daubeney Middle School

- 5.6 Daubeney Middle School's application to replace the school's T8 light fittings with T5 light fittings will reduce its electricity consumption from lighting by 40% (approximately 26,425 kWh); reduce its electricity bills by £3,171 and save 14.41 tonnes of CO₂ which will contribute to reducing the carbon emissions within the Borough. The installation of T5 light fittings to replace T8 light fittings - £23,010.35. The contribution being sought from the Climate Change Fund is **£11,505.17**.

Christ Church

- 5.7 Christ Church's application to install a 9.9 kWp system consisting of 45 photovoltaic panels which will generate approximately 8597 kWh of electricity per year from a fossil-free source and save approximately 4.69 tonnes of CO₂ which will contribute to reducing the carbon emissions within the Borough. They will also benefit from lower electricity bills by approximately £537.31 per year and an estimated income from the generation and export tariff of £3,383 per year. The

total cost of installation of 45 photovoltaic panels (PV) on the church roof - £31,800. The contribution from the Climate Change Fund requested is **£15,900**.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC)

5.8 Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity's (BRCC) application is to install:

- solid wall insulation (planning consent already gained) at the main Old School building and meeting room will reduce the heat loss from the building and reduce energy bills and is required when installing a heating system like an air source heat pump since they work best when producing heat at a lower temperature than traditional boilers because it is essential that the building is insulated well for the heating system to be effective. The installation of solid walls at the main Old School building and meeting room by adding batons to all external walls + then dry lining with plaster board which is then given a skim coat of plaster - £16,099
- an air source heat pump at the main Old School building and meeting room (replacing an oil-fired heating system) will provide heating from a source, which is renewed naturally, and although the heat pump needs electricity to run – the heat extracted is greater. An air-to-air system produces warm air which is circulated by fans to heat the building. Installation of an Air Source Heat Pump to provide heating to the main Old School building and meeting room - £17,226
- 20 photovoltaic (PV) panels on the roof of the Meeting Room will generate approximately 3,175 kWh of electricity per year from a fossil-free source and save approximately 1.73 tonnes of CO₂ which will contribute to reducing the carbon emissions within the Borough. They will also benefit from lower electricity bills by approximately £198 per year and an estimated income from the generation and export tariff of per £1,424 per year. The Installation of 4kWp system consisting of 20 photovoltaic panels (PV) on the meeting room roof - £14,586.

5.9 The total cost of all elements of the work is £47,911. The contribution from the Climate Change Fund requested is **£20,000**

5.10 BRCC aims to improve the heating and insulation of the Old School buildings at Cardington – so they can move out of the office at Old Warden. By consolidating their offices into one location – this will avoid journeys made between the current two sites and reduce energy bills for the organisation.

5.11 A letter supporting their application states that as part of the refurbishment of they will also be replacing the lighting with low energy fittings, fitting secondary glazing to windows, and insulating the loft

spaces. Their application also states that, as part of the scheme, they will be providing bicycle storage and shower room to encourage staff to cycle to work.

5.12 Should only a part award be made, and if priority is required as to how we should spend the grant, they would prioritise the expenditure as follows:

1. The heat pump and insulation to the main building
2. The heat pump and insulation to the meeting room
3. The PV installation

5.13 BRCC is a Community Development charity who work very closely with staff from Bedford Borough and have a number of on-going contracts and service level agreements. The main office is only occupied by BRCC but their work supports many voluntary groups and organisations in the Borough. Examples of this are Village Care (Good Neighbour) Schemes; Village Hall Committees; Rural Transport (including the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership; Parish and Town Planning processes; employment Support projects; Green Infrastructure Planning and 'Just Ask' Village Agents.

5.14 BRCC states that their meeting room, which is at the rear of the main office building, is used by many voluntary groups and organisations throughout the year. If they can reduce their overheads by bringing all of their staff together into a more efficient building, then it is conceivable that the community groups that they work with will benefit.

Biddenham Upper School

5.15 Biddenham Upper School's application is to replace the T8 light fittings in the Sports Hall and classrooms D7, D9 and A8 with T5 light fittings will reduce its electrical consumption from lighting by 22,807 kWh of electricity; reduce its electricity bills by £2,736.84 and save 12.43 tonnes of CO₂ which will contribute to reducing the carbon emissions within the Borough. The Installation of T5 light fittings to replace T8 light fittings - £21,469.86. The contribution from the Climate Change Fund requested is **£10,734.93**.

Mark Rutherford Upper School

5.16 Mark Rutherford Upper School's application is to replace the T12 light fittings in the Sports Hall, Science Lab 33, classrooms B6 + 5 with T5 light fittings will reduce its electrical consumption from lighting by 25,550 kWh of electricity, reduce its electricity bills by £3,066 and save 13.93 tonnes of CO₂ which will contribute to reducing the carbon emissions within the Borough: The installation of T5 light fittings to replace T12 light fittings - £17,740. The contribution from the Climate Change Fund requested is **£8,870**.

Community and Voluntary Service's

- 5.17 Community and Voluntary Service's application to replace their old boiler for a new high efficiency condensing boiler, new pump, controls, programmer and 60 new radiators with thermostatic radiator valves will save approximately £225 on their gas bills and save 1.1 tonnes of CO₂ per year which will contribute to reducing the carbon emissions within the BoroughPower flush of the heating system. The estimated cost of the works is £26,800. The contribution from the Climate Change Fund requested is **£13,400**.

Key Points

- 5.12 As a signatory of the Nottingham Declaration, the Council is committed to encouraging all sectors in the local community to take the opportunity to reduce their own greenhouse gas emissions and to make public their commitment to action.
- 5.13 By helping local community groups improve the energy efficiency of their community buildings and install renewable energy technologies through the implementation of the fund, the Borough Council is working towards its NI 186 target to reduce the carbon emissions of the Borough by 10.8% per capita in the Local Authority area by March 2011.

6. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME

The following Council Units or Officers and/or other organisations have been consulted in preparing this report:

Management Group
All Unit Managers

No adverse comments have been received.

<i>Report Contact Officer:</i>	Paul Pace – Head of Environment, Janet Millar - Climate Change Officer
<i>File Reference:</i>	CCF/0002A
<i>Previous Relevant Minutes:</i>	Minute 28 of 2nd March 2011
<i>Background Papers:</i>	Report to Sustainability Committee; The Nottingham Declaration and an update on Climate Change Strategy dated 20 February 2007
<i>Appendices:</i>	None