

**RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION TAKEN BY AN EXECUTIVE MEMBER**

This form **MUST** be used to record any decision taken by the Elected Mayor or an individual Executive Member (Portfolio Holder).

The form must be completed and passed to the Chief Officer Legal, Performance and Democratic 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 Chief Officer Legal, Performance and Democratic Services has confirmed the decision has not been called in.

**1. Description of decision**

To approve funding from the Mayor's Climate Change Fund for an application from Goldington Parochial Church to fund the installation of replacement heating at St Mary's Church Goldington, in the sum of £3,934.80, for the reasons set out in this report.

**2. Date of decision**

11 July 2023

**3. Reasons for decision**

To allow a qualifying project that meets the funding criteria to be funded which will contribute to reducing the overall carbon emissions in the Borough.

**4. Alternatives considered and rejected**

Not to fund this application - If the Council does not strive to help the communities of the Borough to reduce their energy consumption it may have a negative impact on the Council's reputation and its ability to reach future government set targets.

**5. How decision is to be funded**

The Mayor's Climate Change Fund budget is £0.400 million for 2023/2024. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £3,934.80.

**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)	Did the Chief Executive give a dispensation for that conflict of interest? (If yes, give details and the date of the dispensation).

The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Not Applicable

Signed  .....

Date 11 July 2023

Name of Decision Taker

TOM WOOTTON

**This is a public document. A copy of it must be given to the Chief Officer Legal, Performance and Democratic Services as soon as it is completed.**

Date decision published: ...11July2023.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: ..21July2023.....

(Decision to be made exempt from call in.....NO.....)

**Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor**

**Date: 11 July 2023**

**Report by: Chief Officer – Environment**

**Subject: Mayor’s Climate Change Fund – Project Application from Goldington Parochial Church**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

1.1 This report provides details on an application for funding to the Climate Change Fund from Goldington Parochial Church and recommends approval of the funding towards the project.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Mayor considers, and if satisfied, agrees to:

- To approve funding from the Mayor’s Climate Change Fund for an application from Goldington Parochial Church at St. Mary’s Church Hall to fund the installation of replacement heating, in the sum of £3,934.80, for the reasons set out in this report.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

3.1 To allow a qualifying project that meets the funding criteria to be funded which will contribute to reducing the overall carbon emissions in the Borough.

**4. IMPLICATIONS**

Legal Issues

4.1 The General Power of Competence under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provides the Council with the powers necessary to undertake its climate change objectives.

The Climate Change Act commits the UK government by law to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 100% of 1990 levels (net zero) by 2050. The 100% target was based on advice from the Climate Change Committee's 2019 report, 'Net Zero – The UK's contribution to stopping global warming'.

### Policy Issues

4.2 The Council's Corporate Plan, vision of the period of this Plan is:

- *We want Bedford Borough to thrive as a place, that people are proud of, want to live in and move to. To do this we need a growing and strong local economy and an active response to climate change. From this foundation our residents will be able to thrive and realise their potential, supporting and celebrating our diverse and inclusive communities.*

Cross-Cutting Theme – Climate Change Emergency: to deliver what we need to do across all our services to address climate change.

Sustainable Development and Environment Efficiency Strategy:

#### Priority 1: Demonstrating Community Leadership

- Support local communities to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions
- Support schools/academies in the Borough to reduce their energy and water use

#### Priority 2: Building Community Resilience

- Support local communities to help them become resilient to the impacts of climate change
- Support the installation of low carbon buildings and communities within new and existing developments

### Resource Implications

4.3 The Mayor's Climate Change Fund budget for 2023/2024 is £400,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is for a total cost of £3,934.80. The Climate Change Fund is revenue funded from the Community Programme Priorities Reserve and, therefore, it is necessary to have all the works completed and invoices received by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. The Climate Change Fund was established to help communities in the Borough to reduce the use of fossil fuels, which will result in a reduction in carbon emissions and will promote and improve energy efficiency in the Borough.

## Risk Implications

- 4.4 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 government set targets.

## Environmental implications and contribution to achieving a net zero carbon Council by 2030

- 4.5 Encouraging communities to help reduce their carbon footprint will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. An Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) was commissioned in December 2022. However, the works proposed are for external lighting upgrades which would not have features in the recommendations for the building.

## Equalities Impact

- 4.6 In preparing this report, due consideration has been given to the Borough Council's statutory Equality Duty to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations, as set out in Section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010.

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](http://www.bedford.gov.uk). Those interested in the application process can email their interest to [climatechange@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:climatechange@bedford.gov.uk)

## **5. DETAILS**

- 5.1 The Mayor's Climate Change Fund is a Council grant funded scheme that aims to support projects that improve community buildings, contribute to the reduction of the carbon emissions within the Borough, and thus contribute towards national reduction targets.

The fund is open to voluntary and community groups, not-for-profit organisations, registered charities, public sector including schools and parish councils, and social enterprises. It covers projects such as: insulation measures, upgrading of heating systems, installation of low energy lighting and other of renewable technologies.

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 and within the financial year, that approval was given. 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.

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.

## 5.2 Details of Funding Application: Goldington Parochial Church - St. Mary's Church Hall

St. Mary's Church Hall in Goldington is 54 years old and is hired out for regular voluntary and commercial events with activities taking place every day of the week.

Following an ESOS energy survey completed in January 2023, the church group determined the following:

- The hall is heated by a hot air system installed as part of the build in 1969. The boiler is powered by gas and the existing boiler unit has been there a long time.
- Hot water for kitchen and washrooms is provided by a separate gas boiler, also very old. Both boilers require a pilot light to function.
- Hall lighting is provided by four banks of five 70w fluorescent tubes fitted to the ceiling.
- There is 50mm of insulation in the roof space.

Air source heat pumps were considered but the cost, along with the other energy saving measures and an upgrade to a 3-phase electricity supply, made this unaffordable. The decision was made for the replacement of the two old gas boilers with a modern energy-efficient condensing combination boiler and water-to-air heat exchanger. This will provide heating and hot water throughout the building. A warm-air system is considered the most efficient way of providing heat for the hall when required. This work is planned to take place during July when some of the regular activities take a summer break.

The fluorescent lighting units will be replaced by LED fittings; this is planned for mid-July but may have to be postponed if the roof insulation has to be done first.

There is no access to the roof space without removing the acoustic tiles which will be damaged in the process as they are permanently fixed and will need to be replaced. The Church Group's appointed architect has been instructed to investigate whether the existing supports will take the weight of more insulation and advise on the next step. Cavity wall insulation is likely to be also required.

This application is only concerned with the boiler replacement as the other projects require more investigation before they can proceed. The purpose of the whole project is to substantially reduce energy usage in accordance with the Church of England's stated aim of becoming carbon net zero by 2030. The new heating system will allow the church to monitor and manage usage remotely.

### Additional information:

A modern condensing combination boiler will significantly reduce gas consumption compared to the two separate boilers currently installed. The chosen supplier is Bedford-based and currently services the existing appliances. They have been informed that he has been in contact with the manufacturer of the equipment and are confident that what is proposed will meet their needs. The proposal includes the installation of a standard radiator to dissipate heat when the boiler shuts down. 35kW boiler and 36kW air handler unit recommended both are made in the UK.

### Energy Savings Breakdown:

Type of Energy	Units to be used	Total units pre-project	Total Units saved	Carbon Emissions Factor (Kg)	Total Kg of Carbon Saved	Tonnes of Carbon Saved	Energy usage post project	Saving %
Electricity	kWh	5,171	517	0.2556	132.15	0.1321452	4,654.00	10
Natural Gas	kWh	31,435	17,289	0.18385	3,178.6	3.17858265	14,146.00	55

<u>Energy savings and Payback</u>						
Type of Energy	Unit Rate £	Kwh saved	Total £ saved	Project cost	£ savings	Project payback years
Electricity	0.3009	517	£155.57		£155.57	8.2
Natural Gas	0.0465	17,289	£803.94	£7,869.60	£803.94	

Total Estimated Tonnes of CO2 saved from project	3.31	
Total Cost of Project (£)	£7,869.60	<b>CCF £3,934.80</b>

It is confirmed that the applicant meets the criteria for an award set out in paragraph 5.1 above in that the project:

- (a) aims to improve a community building
- (b) installs energy efficient or renewable technologies
- (c) contributes to the reduction of the carbon emissions within the Borough
- (d) achieves energy and emission savings for a large number of community groups and residents that use the centre and the wider Borough in general.

## 6. SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME

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

Deputy Mayor & Portfolio Holder for Environment, Highways and Transport  
Director of Environment – Craig Austin  
Chief Officer for Finance – Rhian Bevan  
Chief Officer Legal, Performance and Democratic Services – Margaret Martinus  
Manager for Asset and Estate Management – Margaret Birtles

No adverse comments have been received.

*Report Contact Officer:*

Paul Pace – Chief Officer – Environment  
[paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk) ext. 47275

Claire Wilkinson – Energy and Water Technical Officer  
[Claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk)

*File Reference:*

*I: Environment/Committees/Reports/Decisions*

*Previous Relevant Minutes:*

*None*

*Background Papers:*

*None*

*Appendices:*

*None*