

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 Grey's Education Centre, Manor Drive Kempston to fund the installation of new windows and doors, in the sum of £7,422.50 for the reasons set out in this report.

2. Date of decision

10 August 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 £0.400m for 2023/24. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £7,422.50.

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

Yes

Signed *Tom Wootton* Date10/08/2023.....Name of Decision TakerMayor, 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: ...11 August 2023.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in:22 August 2023.....

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

Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor

Date: 10 August 2023

Report by: Chief Officer Environment

Subject: Mayor’s Climate Change Fund project application from Grey’s Education Centre, Manor Drive Kempston,

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 This report provides details on an application for funding to the Climate Change Fund from Grey’s Education Centre 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 Grey’s Education Centre to fund the installation of new windows and doors, in the sum of £7,422.50 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'.

BILTT Chief Financial Officer Paula Burgess received permission 6/2/23 from Acting Chief Education Officer for Education SEND and Schools, Chris Morris to upgrade the fabric of the building. Bedford Borough Council are freeholders of the site.

Policy Issues

- 4.2 The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026, 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 2023/24 is £400,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £7,422.50. The Climate Change Fund is revenue funded and therefore it is necessary to have all the works completed and

invoices received by 31st 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. A Display Energy Certificate (DEC) was commissioned in November 2022. The insulation works proposed by the club are recommended in the DEC.

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. Those interested in the application process can email their interest to climatechangefund@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: Grey's Education Centre

Grey's Education Centre in Kempston provides alternative education for secondary age pupils from across Bedford Borough, who have been excluded from mainstream education or at the risk of exclusion. The main buildings known as Greys House were built in 1975 by Beds County Council as a residential home for "children with emotional and behavioural difficulties". Thus, much of the building was designed for primarily residential use and not as school accommodation.

The windows at the Manor Drive site are up to 48 years old and include many original 1975 metal frame and single glazed units. In addition, a number of the surrounding wooden frames are rotten. Partial window replacement over the last 48 years has resulted in 41 windows plus doors and panels still requiring replacement as soon as possible in teaching and utility areas that are used daily.

The school said:

- We are currently having to teach and work in rooms with extremely poor insulation resulting in very cold temperatures during colder weather
- We are adding additional low efficiency electric space heaters in teaching areas to make them usable. Some rooms need multiple extra heaters to keep at a reasonable temperature for any teaching and learning to take place
- Equally concerning were the high temperatures in our rooms last summer which were exacerbated by the lack of window insulation
- We estimate that we will save up to 50% on our current utility charges once new windows and frames are in place due to the extremely poor insulation they currently provide. This improvement is part of a complementary upgrade plan for our current oil-fired central heating system.
- Our central heating system is still run on heating oil and the increase in oil costs over the last few years is significantly affecting our budgets. We are thus seeking any opportunity to minimise heating costs
- Our pupils are especially sensitive to any issues with the learning environment and we need to be able to ensure that our learning and teaching spaces are fit for purpose and nothing will distract from our focus on re-engaging pupils with education so they can optimise their potential and hopefully return to mainstream education

5.3 Greys Education centre are also in the process of a complementary CIF bid to the ESFA to replace their oil powered central heating which was installed in 1975 and is completely unsuitable for their needs. The current system has no temperature controls and is terribly costly and inefficient to run. Therefore they are very much aware that they must upgrade the windows to ensure the new heating system will work at optimum efficiency.

It is estimated that the improved windows will save the school around £14,000 on their heating and electric bills a year which is substantial. This is equivalent to saving 33% on the electric and 26% on the oil consumption with a total saving of nearly 19 tonnes of CO₂e.

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
Electricity	kWh	96,253	32,084	0.2556	8,200.7	8.2	64,169
Natural Gas	kWh	42,571	-	0.18385	0	0	42,571
Burning Oil	Litres	16,511	4,255	2.54042	10,809	10.81	12,256

Energy savings and Payback						
Type of Energy	Unit Rate	Kwh saved	Total utility costs	Project cost	£ savings per year	Project payback
Electricity	0.33	32,084	£31,763.49	£14,845.00	£10,587.72	1.06 years
Natural Gas	0.14	0	£0		£0	
Burning Oil	0.7894	4,255	£13,033.78		£3,358.90	
Total		36,339	£44,797.27		£13,946.62	

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 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
Carbon, Energy Team – Claire Wilkinson
Chief Officer for Finance – Rhian Bevan
Chief Officer Legal, Performance and Democratic – 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 ext. 47275
Claire Wilkinson – Energy and Water Technical Officer
Claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk

File Reference: *I: Environment/Committees/Reports/Decisions*

Previous Relevant Minutes: *None*

Background Papers: *None*

Appendices: *None*