

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 All Saints Church to fund the installation of LED Lighting, in the sum of £2,210.33 for the reasons set out in this report.

2. Date of decision

8 January 2024

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 £0.600m. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £2,210.33.

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). |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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The Mayor has been consulted on this decision

Not Applicable

Signed *Tom Wootton*

Date: 8 January 2024

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:8January2024.....

Date decision can be implemented if not called in: ...18January2024.....

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

Bedford Borough Council – Report to the Mayor

Date of Report: 8 January 2024

Report by: Chief Officer (Environment)

Subject: MAYOR’S CLIMATE CHANGE FUND – PROJECT APPLICATION FROM ALL SAINTS CHURCH

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 **That the Mayor considers the report and, if satisfied, to approve funding from the Mayor’s Climate Change Fund for an application from All Saints Church to fund the installation of LED lighting, in the sum of £2,210.33 for the reasons set out in this report.**

3. REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

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. THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Council has successfully funded projects to the sum of £113,382.45 in 2023 plus three projects awaiting completion for £33,922. The approval for funding this project will bring the total grant spend to £149,514.78 out of the £600,000 allocated.

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: All Saints Church, Bedford, MK40 4LD

All Saints Church in Bedford is 114 years old serving the local community for worship and prayer 3 times a week as well as special services and events throughout the year. During term time, local schools visit the church to undertake Faith Tours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

The current lighting fixtures are over 20 years old consisting of a mixture of uplighters, downlighters, fluorescent tubes and free-standing lamps. The grant funding will be used to replace all the lighting to LED bulbs, thus improving the lighting levels in all areas and saving electricity costs and consumption. This project is the first step by replacing lighting with LED lights, other improvements such as draughtproofing and some double glazing, efficient fans etc. will be considered at a later stage.

The chosen lighting provider was not only chosen due to the cheapest quote but also because they have dealt with the church's electrical work for a number of years and understand the church and its systems. The electrician who comes is therefore known to the church and is sensitive to working around school groups who visit weekly.

The installer estimated that the replacement of the lighting to LED's will save between 25-30%. Using the lower end of the estimate the following figures were calculated:

| 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 | 13,774.65 | 3,444 | 0.2556 | 880.2 | 0.88 | 10,330.99 |

| Type of Energy | Unit Rate | KWh saved | Total Project cost | £ savings | Project payback (years) |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| Electricity | 0.3169 | 3,444 | £4,420.67 | £1,091.30 | 4 |

The project cost is £4,420.67 (including VAT)

The climate change fund will provide 50% match funding of the total including VAT.

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) contributes to the reduction of the carbon emissions within the Borough.
- (c) 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. ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- 6.1 To not approve the application for the climate change fund has been considered but rejected by officers. This project demonstrates both carbon savings and significant energy and cost savings for this organisation which is the aim of this grant funding.

7. KEY IMPLICATIONS

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| 7.1 Legal Issues | 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'. |
| 7.2 Policy Issues | <p>The Council's Corporate Plan 2022-2026, vision of the period of this Plan is:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Cross-Cutting Theme - Climate Change Emergency – to deliver what we need to do across all our services to address climate change.</p> <p>Sustainable Development and Environment Efficiency Strategy:</p> <p>Priority 1: Demonstrating Community Leadership</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support local communities to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions. • Support schools/academies in the Borough to reduce their energy and water use. <p>Priority 2: Building Community Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. |
| 7.3 Resource Issues | The Mayor's Climate Change Fund budget for 2023/2024 is £600,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £2,210.33. 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. |
| 7.4 Risks | 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. |
| 7.5 Environmental Implications | Encouraging communities to help reduce their carbon footprint will help mitigate the impacts of climate change. |

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| 7.6 Equalities Impact | <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> |
| 7.7 Impact on Families | <p>The church community is wide and varied both culturally and in terms of age, (ranging from babies to the elderly) and also families. Just less than half of the congregation live in Queens Park; of those who live in other parts of the town, many have long standing family roots in the neighbourhood. The church plays a key role locally, through the various music and sports projects led by Faith In Queens Park, and especially the Faith Tour provision for visiting school students, in which we work together with the local Mosque and Gurdwara.</p> <p>The improved lighting system will allow the church to alter the light levels in different areas when needed, this will improve our users experience (including families) and help encourage new groups to use the space. The new system will allow the church to manage and monitor usage remotely allowing us to reduce their usage and costs.</p> |
| 7.8 Community Safety and Resilience | <p>Improved lighting in all areas and saving in costs by reduced usage all helps towards resilience. Better for the environment.</p> |
| 7.9 Impact on Health and Wellbeing | <p>The Church improves individual quality of life and has a positive impact on those using it on their Health & Wellbeing by contributing to social, physical, economic, educational and environmental wellbeing, it also positively impacts on the social cohesion of the area through the sharing of common interest and experience, resulting in friendship, togetherness, a sense of belonging and community spirit.</p> |

8. **SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS AND OUTCOME**

8.1 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 – Rhiain Bevan
 Service Manager, ACE team, Legal Services– Jahangir Ahmed
 Manager for Asset and Estate Management – Margaret Birtles

All relevant comments have been incorporated into the report as necessary.

9. WARD COUNCILLOR VIEWS

9.1 The local ward Councillor(s) for the Queens Park Ward has been consulted and all relevant comments have been incorporated into the report.

10. CONTACTS AND REFERENCES

10.1 Please see references in the table below:

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| 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 |