

**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 Biddenham Parish Council to fund the installation of LED Lighting and Solar Panels at The Pavilion, in the sum of £16,022.03 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**

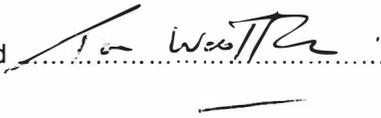
The Mayor’s Climate Change Fund budget is £0.600m. Funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £16,022.03.

**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: 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: .....8 January 2024.....

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 BIDDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL**

**1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report provides details on an application for funding to the Climate Change Fund from Biddenham Parish Council 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 Biddenham Parish Council to fund the installation of LED lighting and Solar Panels at The Pavilion, in the sum of £16,022.03 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 £33,922.00 plus one awaiting approval for £2,210.33. The approval for funding this project will bring the total grant spend to £165,536.81 out of the £600,000 budget allocated for this purpose.

## 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: Biddenham Parish Council - The Pavilion, Deep Spinney, Biddenham MK40 4QP

The Pavilion is 32 years old and is used for many community events such as children's parties, sports groups (Marital Arts, Yoga, Ballet), social groups (Dog training, speaking groups) and it is used every day of the week.

The lighting is as old as the building (32 years) and consists of 21 fluorescent diffuser lights, 9 tube lights and 8 spotlights. They are operated by multiple switches throughout the building. There are no sensors, so if a light is left on then it stays on. These lights can be found through, male and female changing rooms, male and female changing room toilets, entrance hall, male and female entrance toilets and disabled toilet, kitchen, back hallway, staircase, and upstairs meeting room.

The intention is to replace the current lights with 27 LED lights with sensors, 5 standard LED, 2 flat LED disc lights, 1 LED strip light, 10 five-foot LED strip lights, and 8 LED spotlights. This will result in improved efficiency and quality of lighting for the users. There will be sensors so lights will no longer be left on when the hall is not in use.

- 5.3 The second part of the project will be for Solar Panels, since the hall has high electric usage and is also heated with electric heaters, reducing the demand by installing solar panels will help to offset some of their costs. The addition of the battery storage will mean they are even less reliant on the grid electricity as they will be able to store some of the energy generated from the solar panels.

The intention is to add 22 Hyundai 435Wp solar panels to the roof with a SolarEdge inverter and battery. This will result in a 9.57kWp system with a 9kWh battery, resulting in a total 84% self-consumption (not from grid).

5.4 The energy savings breakdown below uses the majority of the savings from the solar as the basis for these calculations. There is expected to be greater savings than estimated from the LED lighting replacement but due to the site already replacing some bulbs with LEDs upon failure, it is difficult to quantify the full savings. The solar and battery installation quotes used the full annual consumption of the site rather than a revised calculation (based on the LEDs reducing the baseline consumption), it can be assumed that the two measures combined will equal, or more likely exceed, the savings calculated below. This is because there would be less power being drawn from the grid and the site could store more generated electric resulting in increased savings.

<b>Energy Savings Breakdown:</b>							
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	9754	7,803	0.2556	1994.4	1.99	1,951.24

<b>Energy savings and Payback</b>					
Type of Energy	Unit Rate	Kwh saved	Project cost	£ savings	Project payback
Electricity	0.34	7,803	£32,044.05	£2,652.94	12.079

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**

<b>7.1 Legal Issues</b>	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'.
<b>7.2 Policy Issues</b>	<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"><li>• Support local communities to reduce energy costs and carbon emissions.</li><li>• Support schools/academies in the Borough to reduce their energy and water use.</li></ul> <p>Priority 2: Building Community Resilience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Support local communities to help them become resilient to the impacts of climate change..</li><li>• Support the installation of low carbon buildings and communities within new and existing developments.</li></ul>

<b>7.3 Resource Issues</b>	The Mayor's Climate Change Fund budget for 2023/24 is £600,000 and full funding is currently available to cover the application detailed in the report, which is £16,022.03. 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.
<b>7.4 Risks</b>	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.
<b>7.5 Environmental Implications</b>	Encouraging communities to help reduce their carbon footprint will help mitigate the impacts of climate change.
<b>7.6 Equalities Impact</b>	<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: <a href="http://www.bedford.gov.uk">www.bedford.gov.uk</a> Those interested in the application process can email their interest to <a href="mailto:climatechangefund@bedford.gov.uk">climatechangefund@bedford.gov.uk</a></p>
<b>7.7 Impact on Families</b>	<p>The Pavilion users are wide and varied both culturally and in terms of age, (ranging from young children to the elderly) and also families. The Pavilion is 32 years old and is used for many community events such as children's parties, sports groups (Marital Arts, Yoga, Ballet), social groups (Dog training, speaking groups) and it is used every day of the week.</p> <p>The improved lighting system in the Pavilion will result in improved efficiency and quality of lighting for the users. There will be sensors so lights will no longer be left on when the hall is not in use.</p>
<b>7.8 Community Safety and Resilience</b>	Improved lighting and saving in costs by reduced usage all helps towards resilience. Better for the environment. Prominent threats to utilities, especially from extreme weather events, are common and increasing. The project will help with utility resilience by installing 9.57kWp solar array with a 9kWh battery resulting in a total 84% self-consumption (not from grid).
<b>7.9 Impact on Health and Wellbeing</b>	The Pavilion 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 village through the sharing of common interest and experience, resulting in friendship, togetherness, a sense of belonging and community spirit.

## 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 – Rhian 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 Biddenham Ward have 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:

Report Contact Officer	Paul Pace – Chief Officer (Environment) <a href="mailto:paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk">paul.pace@bedford.gov.uk</a> ext. 47275 Claire Wilkinson – Energy and Water Technical Officer <a href="mailto:claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk">claire.wilkinson@bedford.gov.uk</a>
File Reference	I: Environment/Committees/Reports/Decisions
Previous Relevant Minutes	None
Background Papers	None
Appendices	None