



Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a **significant** impact on two or more wards

1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision and detail of any previous cabinet decision)

On the 1st May 2024, North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC), in partnership with Equans applied to the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero for a grant to engage the specialist and expert advice and skills required to create robust heat decarbonisation plans to prepare for heat decarbonisation and energy efficiency works. The grant is available through Salix: Phase 5 Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund.

Ten council assets were included in the application, informed by an assessment of energy consumption data, areas where the highest tCO_{2e} would be saved and grant eligibility. Buildings that failed to meet the application criteria or those identified for alternative projects (including disposal) were excluded, with the final selection presented to both Environment Board and Estates Programme Board for approval.

On the 5th July 2024, we received a notification from the funding providers that we were successful in our application for eight of these buildings. These include:

- Bradley Development Centre
- 3 Town Hall Square
- Doughty Learning Centre

- Grimsby Town Hall
- Cleethorpes Business Centre
- South Quay Business Units
- Cleethorpes Leisure Centre
- Immingham Business Units

This funding will be used to access skills and resource to further develop our heat decarbonisation plan and develop standalone detailed designs from a pre-existing heat decarbonisation plan. This is essential to ensure we are focusing the right resource in the right areas to have the biggest carbon reduction impact. It also puts the organisation in a strong position to take the next steps in its decarbonisation journey by enabling us to develop detailed project proposals that will support in our application for future grant funding for capital decarbonisation measures, or alternative sources of green finance.

The project has been approved by the Business Development Group and Assistant Directors in April 2024.

2. Decision being taken

That the Executive Director Place and Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero approves acceptance of the sum of £62,332.50 and the delivery of the project as detailed above.

3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits

NELC's Council Plan outlines our aspirations to reduce our negative impact on the environment and be on the path to a sustainable and carbon neutral future by 2030.

The project supports the following outcomes in the Council Plan: -

Benefit from a green economy and a high-quality environment – The outcome of the project will be a clearly defined heat decarbonisation plan with feasibility studies that outline the recommended decarbonisation measures, indicative capital costs and the overall energy, carbon and cost reduction associated with each measure for the sites in scope.

It will have the greatest impact for North East Lincolnshire Council on the following priorities that contribute to the Outcomes Framework: -

Green Future – we will continue our journey to be a carbon neutral organisation, support others to reduce their impact and work in partnership to protect and enhance our natural assets.

4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision

Do not accept grant funding - The funding provides an opportunity to further develop our decarbonisation plans by identifying key buildings and measures required to decarbonise our estate. This provides a funding opportunity that the authority would otherwise have to identify elsewhere as this exercise provides the evidence base for achieving our low carbon estate workstream.

Use North East Lincolnshire Council Funding – the Council could use capital funding for these feasibility studies, however this would affect the availability of capital funding for other projects and should be reserved for those buildings that do not fulfil the Salix eligibility criteria.

Reject the Funding This Year and Reapply in The Coming Years – the Council could decline the funding this year and use the same application to apply for PSDS Low Carbon Skills Fund next year. This would however stall our progress to achieve our net zero ambitions by 2030. There is also an additional risk that the criteria would change for the next phase and those buildings identified would no longer meet the eligibility criteria for the funding. There is also the risk that we would not be successful with the next phase iteration of the grant. PSDS grants are highly competitive, and this grant was oversubscribed by 7 times the total available grant value on this occasion. Without confirmation of the amount of funding available in the coming years it is likely that the next PSDS phases will be even more competitive.

5. Background documents considered (web link to be included or copies of documents for publishing)

[NELC Net Zero Carbon Roadmap](#)

6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons.

Not applicable.

7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)

Not applicable.

8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)

The decision is an operational decision and falls within appropriate Constitutional remits of delegations. The funding aligns with the Council's ambition to reduce our negative impact on the environment and be on the path to a sustainable and carbon neutral future by 2030. Legal colleagues will support in relation to funding conditions.

9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)

The acceptance of the grant for £62,332.50 will support the development of the decarbonisation plan. There is no match funding requested from the council, the grant will cover all costs in relation to the project scope.

10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)

There are no direct HR implications.

11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)

Strategic Risk:

Delay in achieving key activity and plan as part of the Carbon Roadmap delivery and commissioning priorities which are already identified as key strategic environment and energy risk on Councils risk register.

Financial Risks:

If funding approval is not given, NELC will need to identify revenue funding from current budgets or source other grant funding opportunities to achieve our strategic ambition.

Longer term risk by not having a detailed heat decarbonisation plan and feasibility studies may prevent successful bidding in future as Government are expecting these plans to be in place which meet the identified expectations of what a plan should include.

Delivery Risks:

Provision of right skills and resource to achieve within the tight timescales of the funding conditions which prevent delivery by funding deadline. Risks have been identified within the project plan, with measures outlined for how to mitigate this.

Reputation Risks:

Impact of not achieving Carbon Roadmap delivery for this area, loss of confidence by community, stakeholders and Government office.

12. If the decision links to a previous one taken by Cabinet, has the Cabinet Tracker been updated?

Not applicable.

13. Decision Maker(s):

Name: Sharon Wroot

Title: Executive Director Place and Resources

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: **25.07.24**

14. Consultation carried out with Portfolio Holder(s):

Name: Cllr Henry Hudson

Title: Portfolio Holder for Environment and Net Zero

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 24th July 2024