

9 March 2021

REPORT TO: Climate and Environment Advisory Committee

LEAD CABINET MEMBER: Cllr Bridget Smith

LEAD OFFICER: Head of Shared Waste Services and Environment

Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) grant update

Executive Summary

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with information on the progress of the Zero Carbon Communities grant funded projects funded in round one, provide an overview of the projects funded for round two and give a brief update on the format for the soon to be launched round three.

Key Decision

2. This is not a key decision. The purpose of this paper is to:
 - update members on our ZCC grant funded projects; and
 - provide information on the plans for the grant this year

Recommendations

3. The committee is invited to review the update and highlight to Cabinet any issues of concern and actions recommended to address these.

Details

Round 1

4. In its first year of operation, ZCC applications were invited for projects to both engage communities and support the aim of zero carbon by 2050. 42 applications were received, 19 of which were awarded funding.

5. We are very pleased to report that six of round one grant projects are completed, some finishing within the one year given for completion.
6. Given the impact of Covid, a number of the projects have had to adapt or postpone due to social distancing rules. All projects have started in some form or another- **Appendix A** provides an overview of the progress of each project, with completed projects highlighted in green.
7. Project successes have been shared on social media, on our website, in the South Cambs quarterly magazine and through our ZCC quarterly newsletter. Externally, the grant has attracted the interest of local radio stations such as BBC Radio Cambridgeshire as well as news publications like the Cambridge Independent newspaper. Publicity material has also been provided for all applicants to help promote the work of the Council and we have worked closely with the Communications department to achieve this.
8. The Zero Carbon Communities programme also featured as a case study in a national Local Government Association webinar on engaging communities on climate change, held on 26 February.

Round 2

9. Round 2 of the ZCC grant, launched in 2020, received 45 eligible applications all focusing on one of three main themes - cycling, community buildings and tree planting. The below table summarises the number of applications received for each theme:

Cycling projects:	10
Community buildings	15
Tree planting	20

10. In November, 17 successful projects were selected and awarded between £1000 to £15,000 out of a total grant fund just short of £100k. A further 10 community buildings within the District will also receive an energy efficiency survey from PECT.
11. An overview of the round 2 funded projects is shown at **Appendix B**

Round 3

12. Round 3 of the ZCC grant will be launched at the beginning of April and close at the end of July. This year's grant has been devised taking into consideration the views of applicants, members, officers and the number of applications received in the previous rounds.

13. There will be two specific main themes and an extra general theme for exceptional projects; with each theme being allocated a percentage of the total grant fund:

- Community buildings (40%)
- Nature (40%)
- Other projects (20%)

14. We will be providing potential applicants with another opportunity to join a workshop on the grant and will provide an update when a date is confirmed.

Implications

15. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk, equality and diversity, climate change, and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered: -

Financial

16. The awards recommended are within the Council's proposed budget for 2021-22.

Legal

17. Funding agreements with grant recipients will be drawn up in accordance with templates approved by the legal team. Funding agreements will allow variation or recovering of the grant in specific circumstances.

Effect on Council Priority Areas

18. The Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme has attracted significant interest. All the aims below from the SCDC Business plan 2019-24, will be furthered by one or more of the projects recommended for funding

Growing local businesses and economies

19. Investing in renewable technologies

Being green to our core

20. Supporting community groups to promote behavioural change and reduce the reliance on fossil fuels

21. Helping communities to secure grants to fund green projects

22. Protecting and enhancing the district's heritage and environment

A modern and caring Council

23. Funding community and voluntary groups that benefit local people

Background Papers

Climate and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting Monday, 4 February 2019

<http://modern.gov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1095&MId=7489>

Grants Advisory Committee Meeting Friday, 29 March 2019

<http://modern.gov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1096&MId=7487&Ver=4>

Cabinet, on 01 May 2019

<http://modern.gov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=293&MId=7365&Ver=4>

Grants Advisory Committee Meeting Friday, 27 November 2020

<http://modern.gov/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=1096&MId=7968&Ver=4>

Appendices

Appendix A – Overview of the progress of each round 1 project

Appendix B – Overview of round 2 funded projects

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