



<b>Report to:</b>	Grants Advisory Committee 26/08/2022
<b>Lead Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor John Williams, Lead Cabinet Member for Finance
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>Bode Esan</b>

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## Grants to Voluntary Sector: Zero Carbon Communities Grant Additional Application 2022/23

### Executive Summary

This report sets out an additional grant application and recommendation to the Grants Advisory Committee (GAC) for an award from the Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) Grant Scheme. Members are asked to consider the grant application (detailed in **Table 1 of Appendix A**) and officer panel recommendations and make a recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance. The application was submitted within the timeframe, however due to a system error it was not considered with the other applications received. The error affected one application only within ZCC Grant Scheme and no other SCDC grant schemes. Additional checks will be put in place to check all submitted applications are considered for any future rounds.

### Key Decision

1. This is not a key decision as the funding amount is below the value of £200,000.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that the GAC:
  - a. reviews the additional application to the Zero Carbon Communities (ZCC) Grant Fund for 2022/23 as set out in **Table 1 of Appendix A** to this report; and
  - b. agrees recommendation to the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance for allocating the funding with reference to the eligibility and assessment criteria as set out in the [ZCC Criteria and Guidance](#), and the officer panel scores in **Appendix A**.

### Reasons for Recommendations

3. The recommendation for funding from Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme 2022/23 were decided at the Grants Advisory Committee on the 29<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to the total grant amount available of £120,544.

4. Applications were accepted for two categories, allocated the following percentages of the total grant fund:
  - a. Carbon emission reduction/locking up carbon (70%)
  - b. Community engagement on climate change (30%)
5. One application from Ickleton Village Hall was not received by the Zero Carbon Communities inbox due to an IT error and was subsequently brought to officers' attention by the group. This application fell under the "Carbon emission reduction/locking up carbon category".
6. The application was assessed and scored independently by three officers from the Climate, Environment and Waste team with prior experience, including low carbon investment, low carbon strategy and policy, and monitoring of grant schemes.
7. Independent assessments were made of the application using the weightings (as decided by officers) shown in **Table 3, Appendix B**. The score was calculated using the methodology shown in **Table 4, Appendix B** and ranked in relation to the other funded projects. The project fell well within the funded projects as shown in **Table 1, Appendix A** (highlighted in yellow).

## Details

8. The Council is committed to supporting the shift to zero carbon emissions in the district by 2050, as demonstrated by the motion passed at its November 2018 meeting.
9. Round four of the ZCC grant scheme was launched on 21 March 2022 for non-profit groups or organisations based in South Cambridgeshire (or benefiting South Cambridgeshire residents) and South Cambridgeshire Parish Councils. Recommendations for funding were given by the Lead Cabinet Member for Finance following recommendations by the Grants Advisory Committee on 29 July 2022.
10. The ZCC grant scheme builds upon the Council's strong record of supporting community level action on sustainable energy through SPEP (now the Zero Carbon Communities Programme) and the previously launched, but discontinued, Community Energy grant.
11. The funds available for the ZCC grant are taken from the Renewables Reserve (business rates retained from commercial renewable energy projects in the district). The 2022/23 total grant fund was £120,544.
12. The scheme provides for one-year funding agreements, where projects are required to be completed within one year of awards being made.

Applicants were invited to apply for £1,000-15,000 per project which needed to meet the following objectives

**Carbon emission reduction / locking up carbon:**

- a. The project reduces the production of carbon emissions or reduces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
- b. The project contributes additional value (e.g. funding contributions; volunteer time/expertise from other sources; collaboration between organisations, and/or evidence of local and/or Member support; communication of the project to the local community).
- c. The project is sustainable and will have a 'lifetime' impact on the local and wider community.

**Community engagement on climate change:**

- a. Achieving wider community engagement and behaviour change around climate change.
- b. Additional value (e.g. funding contributions or contributions in kind, e.g. volunteer time/expertise from other sources, collaboration between organisations, and/or evidence of local and/or Member support).
- c. The project is sustainable and will have a 'lifetime' impact on the local and wider community.

Average Officer scores for each objective of each category are shown in **Tables 1 and 2 in Appendix A**.

13. The fund was open for applications for the seventeen-week period between 21 March and 17 June 2022, with the deadline extended from 29 May. Applications were invited from Parish Councils and local community groups in South Cambridgeshire.
14. Information for applicants can be found on [our Guidance Notes and Criteria webpage](#). Full grant criteria and guidance, and further information were provided in dedicated Criteria and Guidance, and Information documents during the application window.
15. Twenty-two applications were received from parish councils and local community groups. All but one were deemed eligible for consideration at the Council Officers' panels held between 14 – 19 July. The additional application brings the total to twenty-three applications.
16. The funding requested from the additional application is £8,000. A summary of the additional application can be found in **Appendix C**.
17. The application was reviewed by the officer panel and listed in order of the average score in the category (**Table 1 in Appendix A**).
18. An additional procedure has now been put in place to ensure that this error is not repeated in further rounds of the Zero Carbon Communities Grant Scheme.

## **Options**

19. Following consideration of all applications, the GAC could recommend to the Lead Cabinet Member to:
- a. award funding to the project,
  - b. decide not to award the funding, stating the reasons for this.

Such consideration should be given to the application listed in **Appendix A, Tables 1.**

## **Implications**

20. 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**

21. The award exceeds the Council's proposed budget for the ZCC scheme for 2022-23.

## **Legal**

22. 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.

## **Consultation responses**

23. This report has been circulated to the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee and Members of this committee have been invited to attend the GAC meeting to contribute their views.

## **Effect on Council Priority Areas**

24. 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**

25. Promoting village-based businesses to encourage people to use local shops and food outlets.
26. Investing in renewable technologies.
27. Helping to ensure people's homes are close to their jobs and can be accessed by walking, cycling and using public transport.

## Being green to our core

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

29. Helping communities to secure grants to fund green projects.

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

## A modern and caring Council

31. Funding community and voluntary groups that benefit local people.

## Background Papers

Climate and Environment Advisory Committee Meeting – 4 February 2019:

<http://moderngov/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1095>

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

Grants Advisory Committee Meeting – 29 March 2019:

<http://moderngov/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=1096>

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

Cabinet - 01 May 2019:

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

Grants Advisory Committee – 26 November 2021:

[Agenda for Grants Advisory Committee on Friday, 26 November 2021, 8.30 a.m. \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://moderngov.co.uk/Agenda%20for%20Grants%20Advisory%20Committee%20on%20Friday%2C%2026%20November%202021%2C%208.30%20a.m.%20(moderngov.co.uk))

Grants Advisory Committee - 25 February 2022:

[Agenda for Grants Advisory Committee on Friday, 25 February 2022, 11.00 a.m. \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://moderngov.co.uk/Agenda%20for%20Grants%20Advisory%20Committee%20on%20Friday%2C%2025%20February%202022%2C%2011.00%20a.m.%20(moderngov.co.uk))

Grants Advisory Committee – 29 July 2022:

[Agenda for Grants Advisory Committee on Friday, 29 July 2022, 10.00 a.m. \(moderngov.co.uk\)](http://moderngov.co.uk/Agenda%20for%20Grants%20Advisory%20Committee%20on%20Friday%2C%2029%20July%202022%2C%2010.00%20a.m.%20(moderngov.co.uk))

## Appendices

Appendix A: Officers Scores and Amounts Requested

- **Table 1:** Officers' scores and amounts requested for Carbon Emission Reduction / Locking up Carbon.
- **Table 2:** Officers' scores and amounts requested for Community Engagement on Climate Change.

Appendix B: Scoring Methodology

- **Table 3:** Weighted Scoring Matrix
- **Table 4:** Scoring Example

## Appendix C: Officer Summary of Additional Application

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