

Environment and Sustainability Committee



Date of meeting 18 January 2022

Title	<i>Bidding Process</i>
Purpose of the report	To make a decision
Report Author	<i>Sandy Muirhead Group Head Commissioning and Transformation</i>
Ward(s) Affected	All Wards
Exempt	No
Exemption Reason	
Corporate Priority	Environment
Recommendations	Committee is asked to: Note and agree the proposed bidding process for projects requesting funds from the Green Initiatives Fund.
Reason for Recommendation	The Green Initiatives Fund will support projects aiming to reduce the impact of climate change in the Borough. A fair means of assessing individual projects proposed by the Council or outside organisations is required to ensure appropriate use of the funding.

1. Key issues

- 1.1 The Council has allocated £747,000 to address the climate emergency. To ensure appropriate scrutiny of the projects coming forward to be funded from the Green Initiatives Fund a bidding process is proposed as outlined in Appendix 1. The proposed process is based on the well-tried grants funding process undertaken in Community Wellbeing and it provides an appropriate basis for bidding for funds from the Green Initiatives Fund.
- 1.2 This form will follow due process to ensure projects are valid and will deliver on the Council's Environment Objectives. It is proposed therefore that the following process to assess individual projects will be completed: -
 - Applications will be invited 4 times per year (final timelines subject to Committee approval but suggested bids are submitted by 1 March, 1 June, 1 September, 1 December)
 - Submitted applications will initially be assessed by the Climate Change Working Group,
 - If approved by the Working Group they will go forward to the Environment and Sustainability Committee for formal approval and release of funds

- All projects will be monitored and reports on progress provided to the Environment and Sustainability Committee to ensure they meet the proposed outcomes.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The recommended option is to support the process of bidding for funds to ensure scrutiny of proposals seeking funding to address climate change and reduce the Council's and Spelthorne's carbon footprint.
- 2.2 Not to put in place a bidding process could result in projects being funded which do not fully deliver on mitigating or adapting to climate change.

3. Financial implications

- 3.1 None at this stage as will be dependent on projects brought forward for funding from the Green Initiatives Fund. However, realistically given the importance of ensuring projects are well considered and deliver on the Council's objectives it is suggested the funding be allocated over the medium term rather than "a rush to spend in one year" which could impact on quality and relevance to reducing our carbon footprint in terms of projects submitted.

4. Other considerations

- 4.1 None

5. Equality and Diversity

- 5.1 No issues at this stage but maybe associated with individual projects.

6. Sustainability/Climate Change Implications

- 6.1 The proposed bidding process should bring forward projects which help reduce the carbon footprint of the Borough and contribute to improving the landscape and biodiversity within the Borough.

7. Timetable for implementation

- 7.1 As projects are implemented

Background papers: *(These are unpublished papers upon which you have relied in preparing this report). If none state, There are none.*

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Requests for Funding from the Green Initiatives Fund