

Environment and Sustainability Committee



Date of meeting 8 March 2022

Title	<i>Applications for funding from Green Initiatives Fund</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 funding proposals from the Green Initiatives Fund.
Reason for Recommendation	The Green Initiatives Fund supports projects aiming to reduce the impact of climate change in the Borough. Projects have been submitted for that 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 was agreed at the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting on 22 January 2022.
- 1.2 In the appendices are applications for funding which will help deliver on the Council's Environment Objectives. Apart from the request for electric scooters these requests for funding have been previously mentioned at Committee and are therefore retrospective. **The Climate Change Working Group have seen the bids and recommend to the Committee that the projects are funded.**
- 1.3 It is also proposed that the application form is placed on the grants section of our website, and appropriate communications issued, so the community can make applications with sound business cases in the future.

2. Options analysis and proposal

- 2.1 The recommended option is to support the applications for funding (Appendices 1- 6) to address climate change and reduce the Council's and Spelthorne's carbon footprint. Also, to agree to publicise the fund through our grants process.

2.2 Not to fund the proposed bids could result in projects not being funded which will reduce our ability to deliver on mitigating or adapting to climate change.

3. Financial implications

3.1 The projects being put forward for funding come to £94,000 (Table 1). There is also an allocation of £39k from the Green Initiatives Fund towards the Green Better Neighbourhood Grants. It is requested that the Green Initiatives Fund is 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.

3.2 Agreeing to the funding would result in a Green Initiatives Fund spend of £135,589 for 21/22 (£96,589k on projects; £39k on Greener Better Neighbourhoods funding). This leaves £611,411 to carry forward to 22/23.

Table 1

Project	£
Colne Valley Partnership Appendix 1	5,000
Climate Change Officer Appendix 2	49,000
APSE Membership Appendix 3	3,500
APSE Energy Audits for Depot, Nursery and Knowle Green offices Appendix 4	9,000
Local Walking Cycling Infrastructure Plan Appendix 5	20,000
E-mopeds Appendix 6	7,500
Staff training Appendix 7	2589
Total	96,589

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 bidding process brings 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 Applications for Funding from the Green Initiatives Fund