

## **TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**CABINET: 17 March 2022**

### **TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL CLIMATE CHANGE FUND UPDATE**

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR: COMMUNITIES, CUSTOMER AND COMMERCIAL SERVICES**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER: COUNCILLOR CAROLYN HEALY, CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE, GREEN SPACES, NATURAL AND HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT**

### **PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

1.1 This report provides an update on the Council's Climate Change Fund, which was launched in February 2021. The report summarises what the fund has achieved to date and sets out proposals for a further round to be delivered later in the year.

1.2 Having declared a climate emergency in July 2019, the Council is keen to support its communities in working towards the aspiration for the Borough to be carbon neutral by 2030. The Council recognises that many local organisations would benefit from help and support to reduce their carbon footprint.

1.3 One practical means of support is by providing funds for community projects that help to tackle climate change. The Council therefore set up a Climate Change Fund in 2021 in order to provide grants to local organisations. The Council wanted to encourage organisations in the borough to take action to reduce their carbon footprint whilst also helping support a 'green recovery' at a local level.

1.4 In total, £131k of grant funding has been provided with 35 organisations across the Borough benefiting. To date, 8 schemes have already been completed well in advance of the target delivery date, ranging from the installation of solar panels to composting projects. The rest are on track to be completed by the target date.

1.5 Due to the unprecedented demand to the Council's Climate Change Fund, the Council committed further funds, reaching out to those organisations whose applications were not successful in the first round to provide additional information in order for their applications to be re-considered in a closed round in September 2021. This round funded 6 further projects (included in the £131k total).

1.6 A key aim of the scheme is for those taking part to share good practice in order to encourage other organisations locally to take action. A number of case studies are featured in Section 4, which will be promoted across the Borough. In total the 3 case studies featured in Section 4 show a total carbon saving of 7.30 tonnes per annum.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Cabinet:

1) Notes the impact of the Climate Change Fund in supporting a wide range of projects across the Borough.

2) Authorises the allocation of a further £200,000 to launch another round of the Climate Change Fund – aiming to invite applications in July 2022.

3) Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces Natural and Historic Environment and Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services to agree terms and any documentation to give effect to the implementation of the fund.

4) Agree that applications to the Fund be determined by a Panel comprising the lead Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces Natural and Historic Environment and Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services in addition to, where possible, representatives from the Telford & Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership and a representative from the Council’s Environment Scrutiny Committee.

### 3.0 SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	This initiative will contribute to all the Council’s priorities but particularly : • Our natural environment is protected – we are taking a leading role in addressing the climate emergency
	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	Steps were undertaken to make all community groups aware of the grant funding. As part of the engagement, easy to understand guidance and information was provided to groups to help them prepare bids.
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/ DELIVERY DATE</b>	Round One organisations received the grants in July 2021, they have 12 months to implement their project. Those receiving the grants in September 2021 have until a year to implement their project.	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	Yes	The Council has a block capital approval for climate change initiatives which will be used to fund the proposed £0.2m extension to the Climate Change Fund. The Council generally sources long-term

		<p>funding from the Public Works Loans Board but plans to launch a £1 million Climate Action Investment (Community Municipal Investment) opportunity during 2022. The £200,000 will be one of the initiatives that will be earmarked against this funding source. All grants awarded must be of a capital nature. (KC/DR 15/02/22)</p>
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	<p>The Council has the power to award grants in accordance with the recommendations and details within this report. If any of the proposals in this report give rise to specific legal issues these will be addressed and advice provided in due course. (EH 10.2.22)</p>
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT</b>	Yes	<p>Reducing emissions locally will help mitigate the risk of rising temperatures in the summer and extreme weather events, including drought and flooding. Reducing emissions can bring tangible short-term benefits too, such as improved air quality, increased access to physical activity and green spaces, improved quality of buildings and lower energy costs, and employment opportunities in the green sector. Carbon reduction projects will also help foster better community cohesion and participation and will help support groups that may have been impacted by the social distancing requirements in response to COVID-19. On an individual level, residents will benefit from carbon reduction projects, such as better insulated community buildings, awareness raising about reducing energy use (and therefore reducing the risk of fuel poverty), and improved active and sustainable travel infrastructure.</p>
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	Yes	<p>Risks: The Climate Change Committee Independent Assessment of UK Climate Risk for the UK's third Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3), published in June 2021 sets out the priority climate change risks for the UK.</p> <p>In summary, risks in the report were:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The impacts of climate change on the natural environment.</li> <li>• An increase in the range, quantities and consequences of pests, pathogens and invasive species.</li> <li>• The risk of climate change impacts, especially more frequent flooding and coastal erosion, causing damage to infrastructure services.</li> <li>• A reduction in public water supplies due to increasing periods of water scarcity.</li> <li>• The impact of extreme temperatures, high winds and lightning on the transport network.</li> <li>• The impact of increasing high temperatures on people’s health and wellbeing.</li> <li>• Increased severity and frequency of flooding.</li> <li>• Disruption to the delivery of health and social care services due to a greater frequency of extreme weather.</li> <li>• Damage to cultural heritage assets as a result of temperature, precipitation, groundwater and landscape changes.</li> <li>• Impacts internationally that may affect the UK, such as risks to food availability, safety and security, risks to international law and governance from climate change that will affect the UK, international trade routes, public health.</li> </ul> <p>Therefore there are significant risks as outlined should the Council fail to mitigate climate change and ensure that residents, businesses and the natural environment are able to adapt to the future climate.</p>
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	Borough-wide impact

**PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**4. INFORMATION**

**4.1 BACKGROUND**

4.1.1 Telford & Wrekin Council declared a Climate Emergency on 25 July 2019, which included a commitment to ensuring that its operations and activities are carbon neutral

by 2030. The declaration also included an aspiration for the Borough to become carbon neutral by 2030.

4.1.2 Recognising that, for some organisations in the Borough, this could be difficult to achieve, the Council decided to set up a Climate Change Fund, from which organisations could apply for a grant to support projects aimed at addressing climate change or environmental sustainability.

4.1.3 A Climate Change Fund of £100,000 was established and was launched in February 2021.

4.1.4 Organisations eligible to apply for a grant included;

- Town & Parish Councils;
- Voluntary and community groups;
- Faith groups;
- Charities;
- Not for profit organisations;
- Social enterprises;
- Friends of Parks, Local Nature Reserves and similar groups;
- Schools and nurseries, including parent teacher associations and school friends groups;
- Small businesses\*.

\* for the purposes of this grant, small businesses were defined as those having 15 or less full time equivalent employees. There is also a complementary grant for retail and hospitality businesses called the high street eco grant, see [https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20715/pride\\_in\\_our\\_high\\_street/4043/grants](https://www.telford.gov.uk/info/20715/pride_in_our_high_street/4043/grants).

4.1.5 Applications were invited for projects which fell within one of four categories:

- Improve energy efficiency in existing buildings (for which we received 30 applications);
- Provide renewable/low carbon energy generation (for which we received 10 applications);
- Sustainable travel (for which we received 15 applications);
- Reduce waste (for which we received 14 applications).

4.1.6 Grants could be applied for up to £5,000 for community organisations and up to £2,500 for small businesses, with all applicants required to provide match funding – 20% for community organisations and 50% for small businesses.

4.1.7 Applications were invited between 19 February and 19 April 2021. An online form (with a paper version available on request) invited applicants to set out details of their proposed climate change project and to explain, in particular;

- How the project would achieve a reduction in carbon emissions;
- Any cost savings that would accrue;
- How the wider community would benefit;

- How the organisation would promote the project more widely to encourage others to consider doing something similar.

4.1.8 All grants awarded were to be new projects and were to be completed within 12 months.

## **4.2 Fund Allocation Panel**

4.2.1 Panels reviewed the project bids and discussed which projects were to receive the funding based on the project criteria and made a recommendation for sign off. The panels were made up of the Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Green Spaces Natural and Historic Environment, Director: Communities, Customer and Commercial Services, members of the Telford and Wrekin Borough Climate Change Partnership<sup>1</sup> and a representative from the Council's Environment Scrutiny Committee.

## **4.3 Round 1 of the Climate Change Fund (19 Feb – 19 April 2021)**

4.3.1 The scheme proved extremely popular with 69 applications received. Due to the quality of bids received, additional funding was issued and 29 grants were awarded to the value of £109,763.

## **4.4 Round 2 (closed) of the Climate Change Fund – Autumn 2021**

4.4.1 Due to the unprecedented demand to the Council's Climate Change Fund, the Council committed further funds, reaching out to those organisations whose applications were not successful in the first round to provide additional information in order for their applications to be re-considered in a closed round in September 2021.

4.4.2 A further six grants were awarded.

4.4.3 The total grants awarded across the two rounds awarded was £131,479 across 35 projects. The range of organisations and projects awarded a grant is in Appendix 1.

## **4.5 Case studies**

4.5.1 A requirement of the receipt of a grant was that applicants complete a case study for publication on the Council's Website ([www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com](http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com)), demonstrating what they had achieved with the grant.

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<sup>1</sup> Lyreco, Hollinswood & Randlay Primary School, Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Gorge Countryside Trust

### Case Study 1: All Saints Church, Wellington



**Summary of project:** replacement of the existing house and stage lighting with LED lighting

Please see the YouTube link to the case study video:  
<https://youtu.be/yFpofOEBTgA>

**Project category:** Energy efficiency in existing buildings

**Description:** The project was implemented in two phases. The stage lighting upgrade was undertaken by a local stage lighting company, in early October 2021 and the house lighting upgrade (focussing on those used most frequently) was undertaken by a local electrician in December 2021.

The feedback from regular congregation members and from visitors has been very positive. The building was used for the recording of the Charlton School Christmas productions, and the Church also hosted the Mayor's Carol Service. The new lighting enhanced the service, and its live streaming.

The estimated annual carbon reduction is 2.4 tonnes, with an associated annual cost saving of around £500 for the church.

### Case study 2: Little Wenlock Village Hall



**Summary of project:** replacement of a 20 year old oil boiler with a low carbon heating system

**Project category:** Renewable Generation

**Description:** The Village Hall Committee engaged a consultant with expertise in renewable energy who recommended replacing an old ceiling-mounted cooling

units in the main hall with a modern replacement which both heat and cool, using air to air heat pump technology. The grant helped to unlock funding from other sources to enable the project to occur. With funding from the Climate Change Fund, MarRE<sup>2</sup>, Shropshire Rural Communities Council, the Parish Council and the Village Hall reserves the Village Hall are now the proud owners of two heat pump technologies – providing warm air for the main hall, and providing warm water for radiators in the remaining areas of the building.

Additional capacity: 43 kWp<sup>3</sup>  
CO<sub>2</sub> saving per year: 4.88 tonnes<sup>4</sup>

### Case study 3: Redhill Primary Academy



**Summary of project:** a food waste composting project at the school

**Project category:** Reduce Waste

**Description:** The school took delivery of a Ridan<sup>5</sup> Food Waste Composter in the week before they broke up for Christmas. The school Eco Warriors started feeding waste into the composter in the week beginning 16/01. A whole-school assembly has highlighted the connection between food waste and climate change.

The estimated annual carbon reduction is 0.0180375 tonnes<sup>6</sup> for a school year.

## 4.6 Feedback from grant recipients

Comments about the application process were invited from recipients of the grants and the following feedback was received;

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/get-involved/did-you-know/marre>

<sup>3</sup> kWp is the peak power of a system.

<sup>4</sup> Based on using conversion factors from Marches Energy Agency regarding difference between the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the old and new heating systems

<sup>5</sup> The Ridan food waste composter system consists of a manually powered composting machine and a maturation box, enabling schools, businesses and caterers to recycle large quantities of food waste or any bio-degradable vegetation into healthy, nutritious compost, see <https://www.ridan.co.uk/>

<sup>6</sup> Based upon composting 37 kg of food waste, 5 days a week during the school year







'The grant was most welcome and the framework for the application helped us to design our approach and steer the work of the working group to set up and establish the project.' (Waters Upton Parish Council)



'The process of applying for the grant was straightforward, with clear communication from the team. The support with promotion and press releases has been very good' (All Saints Church, Wellington)



'VERY GOOD'  
(St Andrew's Church, Church Aston)



'Very smooth process, very helpful – thank you!' (Burton Borough School)

## 4.7 Project auditing

During project implementation, community groups are required to provide updates on progress in implementing their projects. Following project completion, community groups will be asked to provide a case study for publication on the Sustainable Telford and Wrekin website<sup>7</sup>.

## 4.8 Next Steps: Proposed Round 3 – July 2022

4.8.1 Due to the success of the Climate Change Fund in 2021, it is proposed to launch another round in July 2022.

4.8.2 To speed up action towards carbon neutrality by 2030 and encourage more groups to be able to apply it is proposed that;

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.sustainabletelfordandwrekin.com/>

- The size of the fund for round 3 be doubled from £100,000 to £200,000, which will be funded through the Climate Action Investment. This will be a financial product available to the public, providing residents with a reasonably competitive return on their money while enabling them to invest in local projects that support our fight against climate change.
- The maximum amount available to organisations be increased from £5,000 to £10,000 to provide extra funding as some previous funding streams such as MarRE and Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) are no longer available and to reflect the ambitions of community groups and small businesses<sup>8</sup> to reduce their carbon footprints.

## **5. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

5.1 None.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

6.1 None.

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<sup>8</sup> All small businesses (for the purposes of this grant, small businesses are defined as those having 15 or less full time equivalent employees) will be included except for businesses on the high street which are covered by the high street eco grant.

## APPENDIX 1

### Telford and Wrekin Climate Change Fund 2021 - Organisations awarded a grant

<b>Grant category: Improve energy efficiency in existing buildings</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
Admaston House Community Centre towards replacement of existing lighting with LED	£5000
Sir John Bayley Club towards replacement windows and door	£4875
Holy Trinity Academy for upgrade of strip lighting to LED	£2500
Coalbrookdale and Ironbridge Scout Group towards secondary internal glazing and draught proofing	£4500
Crudgington Primary School towards improvements to lighting and double glazing	£5000
Dawley C of E Primary Academy towards upgrade of Academy Hall lighting to LED	£2496
All Saints Church, Wellington towards replacement of the existing house and stage lighting with LED lighting	£5000
St Andrew's Church, Church Aston towards replacement of existing lighting with LED	£1785
GDS Property Services, Rodington towards replacement workshop lighting	£2500
Wellington Community Arts towards the upgrade of internal and external lighting to LED	£5000

Dawley Social Club towards a range of energy efficiency measures at the Club	£4188
St Leonards Church, Malinslee towards new LED lighting	£5000
Lilleshall Cricket Club towards replacement windows	£2000
Waters Upton Parish Council towards a range of energy efficiency projects across the Parish, including a residents' engagement programme and energy efficiency measures in a number of public buildings	£4000
Leegate Community Centre towards upgrading the Centre's lighting to LED	£5000
Small Woods Association towards updating lighting and devices at the Green Wood Centre to LED	£5000

<b>Grant category: Provide renewable/low carbon energy generation</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
Little Wenlock Village Hall towards replacement of old oil boiler with low carbon heating system	£5000
Wellington Town Council towards a solar PV system at Wellington Public Conveniences	£5000
Lilleshall Parish Council towards a solar PV system at Lilleshall Tennis Centre	£5000
Helping Hands supported accommodation towards a solar PV and battery system at newly acquired premises	£5000

Lilleshall Memorial Hall towards a roof mounted solar PV and battery system	£5000
Food Waste Heroes towards a solar PV System with battery storage on the roof of their container building in Wellington	£5000

<b>Grant category: Sustainable travel</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
Newport CE Junior School towards a bike/scooter shed/storage	£1500
Southall Special School towards the development of cycling and walking activities	£5000
Burton Borough School towards secure bike storage	£3000
Park Lane Centre, Woodside towards two electric charging points for the Centre car park	£5000
Sambrook Village Hall towards a community electric car charging point	£1800

<b>Grant category: Reduce waste</b>	
<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
Lightmoor Village Primary School towards recycling bins	£1500
Newport Town Council for Recycle on the Go Bin project	£5000
Old Park Primary School towards the creation of Eco bricks from single use plastic waste	£2000
Redhill Primary Academy towards a food waste composting project	£5000

Lawley Primary School towards becoming a single use drinks bottle plastic free school	£4865
Friends of Dawley Park towards a Climate Change Programme for Dawley Park	£1254
Telford Pet Services towards a move to corn starch compostable dog poo bags and hot compost bins	£546
Clifton Community Arts, Wellington towards the creation of a courtyard garden area	£1170