

CABINET

RIBA Stage 4 Decarbonisation Designs ICMD

Report of Chief Officer – Planning and Climate Change

PURPOSE OF REPORT			
To accept funding from the Low Carbon Skills Fund for the development of RIBA Stage 4 decarbonisation designs, should an offer be forthcoming, and provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive for the Award of Contract.			
Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Non-Key Decision	Referral from Cabinet Member
Date of notice of forthcoming key decision	14 May 2023		

RECOMMENDATIONS OF Cllr Gina Dowding

- (1) To accept funding of £370,000 from the Low Carbon Skills Fund for the development of RIBA Stage 4 decarbonisation designs, should an offer be forthcoming.
- (2) Should an offer be accepted, the general fund budget be updated as appropriate.
- (3) To delegate the award of Contract to the Chief Executive

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In Jan 2019, the Council declared a climate change emergency. The Council's priorities include the theme of 'Taking action to meet the challenges of the climate emergency'.
- 1.2 The council has approved a Building Energy Decarbonisation Plan (BEDP) to meet net zero 2030 targets. The programme assumes a transition from natural gas to electrically powered heat pumps, solar PV and retrofit improvements to building fabric.
- 1.3 The current BEDP has been developed to RIBA Stage 1 / 2 which is reasonably high-level.
- 1.4 Funding is available from the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF) to develop existing BEDP's to RIBA Stage 4 – detailed design. This will specify exact heat pumps, building fabric, solar, electric upgrades and BEMS systems (make / model).
- 1.5 The work will also firm up capital costs *and* energy savings. This provides additional confidence and ensures sites have fully developed solutions and are 'spade ready.' Match funding is not required for LCSF funding.
- 1.6 Officers have submitted a £370,000 LCSF bid to cover Williamson Park, City Lab,

Gateway, Morecambe Town Hall and The Storey. Apart from Gateway, all sites have gas boilers which have reached end of life and could be eligible for Public Sector Decarbonisation funding (PSDS) which would cover a large proportion of capital costs.

- 1.7 The outcome of the LCSF funding application will be known by 26th June 2023
- 1.8 Williamson Park, City Lab, The Storey and Morecambe Town Hall will be eligible for PSDS funding, and the RIBA Stage 4 designs will help strengthen the application by providing assurance around costs and energy savings.
- 1.9 The next round of PSDS funding is expected to open in Autumn 2023 and (as with previous) will be on a first-come-first-served basis.
- 1.10 Officers have gone out to tender openly for the RIBA Stage 4 work, in preparation for LCSF funding being offered. Design work will need to be commissioned and completed quickly to meet the PSDS deadline in the Autumn.

2.0 Proposal Details

Officers wish to seek approval via an Individual Cabinet Member Decision (ICMD) to accept the LCSF funding, should an offer be forthcoming, and provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive for the Award of Contract.

This will enable officers to continue working swiftly to commission and complete the work in readiness for an Autumn PSDS application.

3.0 Details of Consultation

- 3.1 The Climate Emergency Projects team have been working in collaboration with Property Services.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

	Option 1: Approve	Option 2: Reject
Advantages	Supports the council's overall climate emergency ambitions in line with the Building Decarbonisation Plan No funding contribution required for LCSF	None
Disadvantages	None	Does not support climate emergency ambitions
Risks	None	None

5.0 Officer Preferred Option (and comments)

- 5.1 To accept LCSF funding, should an offer be made and provide delegated authority to the Chief Executive for the Award of Contract.

RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK

The project links to the following priorities and cross-cutting themes:

- Net zero carbon by 2030 while supporting other individuals, businesses, and organisations across the district to reach the same goal.
- Increasing the amount of sustainable energy produced in the district and decreasing the district's energy use.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, HR, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

Climate – As set out in the report

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

By virtue of the General Power of Competence under s1 Localism Act 2011 the Council has the power to do anything that individuals may do and can therefore apply for grant funding and subsequently enter into any form of agreement regarding such funding. Legal Services will be able to assist in respect of any contracts or legal agreements relating to any funding in respect of this matter in the future to ensure that the same are suitable.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The revenue bid to the low carbon skills fund does not require any match contributions, however, will firm up the costs (and energy savings) of decarbonising each of the sites therefore assisting future decisions.

The general fund net capital programme includes £2.43M (profiled £0.487M 23/24 and £1.946 24/25) to contribute towards the decarbonisation of these sites should a PSDS funding bid be successful. This will need to be reviewed after the RIBA Stage 4 work is completed, to check that costs remain in line.

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The project will be delivered by the Climate Emergency team in collaboration with property services and Premises Managers where appropriate.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted and would draw Members attention to the comments given within the Financial Implications.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments to add.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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[Building Energy Decarbonisation Plan](#)

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