

Finance Urgent Key Decision



Decision of: Denise Murray, Section 151 Officer

With advice from: Kayode Olagundoye, Business Partner

Directorate: Growth & Regeneration

Decision no: 030

Subject: Exceptional Approval – Low Carbon Skills Fund, Phase 4

Key decision: yes

Reason Low Carbon Skills Fund Grant Phase 4 was announced 28th March, with a deadline of 26th April for submission rendering the City Leap Client Function team unable to follow the Cabinet approval process.

Background

LCSF provides grants to boost decarbonisation skills and unlock decarbonisation in the public sector. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has made available up to £17 million of funding for Phase 4.

The funding available through LCSF is to be used for surveys and feasibility studies across identified properties in order to assess the opportunities for works to support decarbonisation of the energy supply.

The properties identified for the bids below reflect Bristol City Council's 2025 carbon neutrality targets across the corporate estate and have been selected based on carbon-output. Properties can be substituted after receipt of the grant if those currently included are selected for disposal at a later date. BCC have no obligation as grant recipients to maintain ownership of any property included in the funding application for any length of time after spend of funds in line with LCSF's terms and conditions. The heat decarbonisation plans and detailed design work funded by any successful grant application are expected to be delivered through Ameresco Limited, Bristol City Council's strategic partner for delivery of low carbon energy infrastructure projects.

The Grant enables us to apply for funding across three different value ranges:

- 34% of funding for projects up to £100,000.
- 38% of funding for projects between £100,001 - £500,000
- 28% of funding for projects between £500,001 - £1,000,000

The applications for submission are as follows:

Value range	Submission	Value of the bid
Up to £100,000	17 schools to create heat decarbonisation plans	£85,000
£100,000 - £500,00	7 properties within the Corporate Estate priority list with heat decarbonisation plans, to be developed to detailed design	£245,000

£500,000 - £1,000,000	The top 27 Corporate Estate priority properties to create heat decarbonisation plans and detailed designs	£560,000
-----------------------	---	----------

Decision

Approval of an Urgent Key Decision for the City Leap Client Function team to submit three applications as detailed in table above to the Low Carbon Skills Fund, Phase 4 on 26th April totalling £890,000.

Financial implications

100% grant funding opportunity, with no match-funding obligations.

A 17% contingency is also included in the applications.

Bristol City Council are at no risk of any future financial obligation associated with this grant submission.

Legal powers and implications

This is to approve the submission of the bid. There is no obligation to accept and spend the bid at this stage. If the bid is successful, the City Leap Concession Agreement, requires Bristol City Council to offer Ameresco first right of refusal on all decarbonisation works undertaken by Bristol City Council. Ameresco have provided estimates which have informed the LCSF4 submission based on previous work undertaken as part of LCSF3 and current market prices. Approval for acceptance and draw down will be brought back to Cabinet in due course.

Climate change and environmental implications

If successful, LCSF4 funding will be spent to support decarbonisation of BCC's corporate estate in line with the net 2025 targets for carbon neutrality, the Corporate Strategy 2022-27, the One City Plan and the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

A subsequent grant funding opportunity, the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), will be announced in Autumn to allow for public bodies to apply for additional funding in order to undertake and implement the decarbonisation works identified within the feasibility studies funded by LCSF4.

Consultation

- Bristol City Leap, joint venture company
- Bristol City Leap Property Decarbonisation Sub-Working Group including representation from: City Leap Client Function Team; Property; Sustainable City and Climate Change team; Energy Supply team; Bristol City Leap
- John Smith, Executive Director of Growth & Regeneration
- Denise Murray, Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer
- Kayode Olagundoye, Finance Business Partner
- Cllr. Craig Cheney, Designated Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Finance, Governance and Performance.

Risk management

Ameresco, our strategic delivery partner, will hold risk of delivery, including any over-spend.

Equality implications

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? no

Corporate implications

If successful, LCSF4 funding will be spent to support decarbonisation of BCC's corporate estate in line with the net 2025 targets for carbon neutrality, the Corporate Strategy 2022-27, the One City Plan and the Mayor's Climate Emergency Action Plan.

Signatories

S151 Officer and / or Head of Paid Service

Name: Denise Murray

Title: Director of Finance/S151 Officer

Signed: 

Date: 25/04/2023

Consultee

Name: Councillor Craig Cheney

Title: Deputy Mayor Finance, Governance and Performance

Signed: 

Date: 17/04/23

Note: if an electronic signature is used, an email from the relevant certifier confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If a consultation is undertaken verbally the Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by the consultee.