

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 05 September 2023

TITLE	Funding bid to Innovate Pathfinder Places Programme Phase 2	
Ward(s)	Citywide	
Author: Alex Minshull	Job title: Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager	
Cabinet lead: Cllr Kye Dudd, Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy and Waste	Executive Director lead: John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	
Proposal origin: BCC Staff		
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet		
<p>Purpose of Report: To seek approval to submit a bid for up to £5m of funding to Innovate UK’s Net Zero Living Programme Pathfinder Places Competition Phase 2 Demonstrator call, to contribute to the achievement of Bristol City Council’s and the city’s climate goals.</p> <p>The project aims to build on the successful work undertaken by Bristol City Council, including Bristol City Leap, via engagement with communities, support for the supply chain and effective energy and retrofit planning.</p>		
<p>Evidence Base:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bristol City Council (BCC) is working with partners to help achieve the goals of the One City Climate Strategy. 2. In the BCC Climate Emergency Action Plan 2022 we committed to seek funding to develop innovative mechanisms which complement the investment already being made in the city to accelerate decarbonisation and contribute to a just transition. 3. In June 2022, Cabinet approved BCC’s participation in the EU 100 Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission which provides an overall approach to accelerating delivery of the One City Climate Strategy including the formation of a Transition Team to orchestrate decarbonisation. 4. In July 2023, Cabinet approved the Net Zero Investment Co-Innovation Lab project to establish a series of innovative financial mechanisms to help achieve the city’s climate change goals using £1.3m of funding provided by the EU Horizon Europe Net Zero Cities Pilot City Programme. 5. In March 2023, BCC was successful in becoming one of Innovate UK’s Pathfinder Places as part of their Net Zero Living Programme Pathfinder Places competition phase 1 and secured £75k of funding to undertake a feasibility study for a project to help reduce Bristol’s carbon emissions. This study was completed in June and the project proposals set out in this paper were developed from the findings of that study. 6. The project has been developed in close collaboration with partners and will be delivered working closely with those partners and Bristol City Leap partnership. 		

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Note that Bristol City Council has been successful in joining the Innovate UK Net Zero Pathfinder Places Programme and that Bristol City Council has delivered a successful Phase 1 feasibility study into the acceleration of action towards achieving carbon neutrality in the city.
2. Authorise the Executive Director Growth and Regeneration in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy and Waste to take all steps required to submit a bid to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme Pathfinder Places competition Phase 2 Strand 1 'Pathfinder Demonstrator' of up to £5m deliver a Demonstrator Project to contribute to the achievement of council and city climate goals.
3. Note that a further report will be brought to Cabinet to seek approval for the main delivery phase of the Pathfinder Demonstrator Project if the bid is successful with some preparatory work taking place ahead of that.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

1. The project is focused on achieving the priority of ENV1 Carbon Neutral but contributes to a range of priorities.

City Benefits:

1. The project aims to reduce the city's carbon emissions, reduce fuel poverty and increase jobs and training in the net zero supply chain, particularly in the building retrofit field in the context of a just transition.

Consultation Details

1. The project has been developed in dialogue with partners, the Bristol Green Capital Partnership and Bristol and Bath Regional Capital. In phase 1, BCC has engaged with several community organisations.
2. The phase 2 project would involve very substantial public and stakeholder consultation over the next 2 years.

Background Documents:

- The [One City Climate Strategy](#)
- [BCC Climate Emergency Action Plan](#)
- Bristol Mission Net Zero Phase 1 Feasibility Study Final Report

Revenue Cost	Up to £5m	Source of Revenue Funding	Bid to Innovate UK
Capital Cost	N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ongoing cost <input type="checkbox"/>	Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:**1. Finance Advice:**

This report seeks Cabinet approval to submit a bid for up to £5m of funding to Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme Pathfinder Places Competition Phase 2. This will follow upon the successful completion of the feasibility study conducted within Phase 1 of the same competition.

If successful, the money received will fund a range of activities in conjunction with several partners which are designed to contribute to the achievement of Bristol City Council's and the city's climate goals.

Costing

The service has undertaken a detailed costing exercise to calculate the funding requirement. This is summarised in the table below. This funder does not allow for inflation or contingencies to be added to its bids. However, the service has ensured that those areas that are susceptible to price increases or other risks that may inflate costs are priced accordingly and conservatively.

These are indicative costs as the fine detail remains under discussion until bid submission.

Description	Amount (£'K)
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Core Element 1: Transition Team	250
Core Element 2: Project Management	400
Workstream 1: West of England Climate Investment Plan	890
Workstream 2: Community-led Neighbourhood Climate Plans	860
Workstream 3: Net Zero Neighbourhood Investment Structure	830
Workstream 4: Business Case Development for Pipeline of Projects	500
Workstream 5: A supply chain support package	725
Workstream 6: A Net Zero Investment Lab	400
GRAND TOTAL	4,855

The anticipated profile of the spend is:

23/24 £0.3m

24/25 £3.5m

25/26 £1.1m

Funding

These revenue costs are expected to be funded in full using a revenue grant to be provided by Innovate UK.

There is no requirement to match fund and therefore this proposed activity will not require any funding from the council's approved revenue or capital budgets. If the bid is successful, the council will be required to deliver the expected outputs and will ensure that this responsibility and risk is shared with or transferred to all delivery partners as appropriate.

A further report will be presented to Cabinet should this bid be successful.

Finance Business Partner: Alison Bennett, Interim Finance Business Partner, Growth & Regeneration 21 August 2023

2. Legal Advice: The submission of bids for grant funding raises no particular legal issues. If successful, the procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Council's own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Team Manager/Solicitor 22 August 2023.

3. Implications on IT: IT are supportive and available to aid in progressing relevant work and can be engaged through the existing work request process.

IT Team Leader: Alex Simpson – Lead Enterprise Architect 22 August 2023

4. HR Advice: There are no HR implications evident. Fair and open recruitment processes should be followed for resourcing support to the project, in line with our policy.

HR Partner: Chris Hather, HR Consultancy Manager 22 August 2023

EDM Sign-off	John Smith, Interim Executive Director Growth and Regeneration	09 August 2023
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Kye Dudd, Cabinet Member for Climate, Ecology, Energy and Waste	31 July 2023
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	7 August 2023

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal A summary of the Project Proposal	YES
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	YES
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	No
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO