

DELIVERY OF THE LOW CARBON FUND PROJECTS

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Portfolio: Environment and Recycling

Ward(s) affected: All

Purpose of the Report

To update Members on the completion of energy efficiency schemes funded through the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands (IEWP) Low Carbon Fund.

Recommendation

To note progress of the delivery of the projects funded by the Low Carbon Fund.

Reasons

The Council's Carbon Management Plan which was adopted in 2011 outlines the approach to reducing carbon emissions and sets out in an action plan what projects will be undertaken. In February 2012 Cabinet approved the use of Low Carbon Funding to take forward a range of projects and officers were authorised to update the Carbon Management Plan Delivery Plan to reflect these projects. This report outlines progress in delivering the Low Carbon funded projects.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has a Carbon Management Programme to deliver a reduction in carbon emissions from operations and estate by 30% from a baseline established in 2009/10. The Carbon Management Plan includes a Delivery Plan which outlines what projects should be completed subject to securing funding.
- 1.2 A Carbon Board was formed to provide strategic direction and provide a link between the programme, the Executive Management Team and Cabinet. A key role of the Board is to report overall progress and seek executive approval for continuing delivery of the plan. Whilst the Board leads on delivery of the plan, previous Cleaner Greener and Safer Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committees have requested updates on progress as part of the Scrutiny process.

2. Issues

- 2.1 Last year the Council was successful in bidding to the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands for Low Carbon funding. £35,000 was awarded to enable the Council to invest in energy efficiency schemes in 2012.
- 2.2 This funding was awarded on submission of satisfactory returns, evidence of financial expenditure and confirmation of compliance of funding conditions. The key issue here is that in agreeing to accept the grant funding the Council has to agree to pay 10% of the subsequently generated annual revenue savings back to IEWM for 3 years following the first year of implementation.
- 2.3 In February 2012 Cabinet approved the use of Low Carbon Funding to take forward a range of projects. The table below outlines the final projects undertaken and the costings. It is important to note that the projects varied from the original ideas as once officers undertook

more in depth investigation into the building structures and sought quotes, amendments to the ideas were required. One example of this is the cavity wall insulation, this was secured at a good price and therefore additional buildings were included in the programme.

Projects	Actual Cost (exclude VAT)	Original Estimate	Revised Potential Annual Savings
AMR's	£5,880	£8,650	£10,000
Cavity wall insulation at: Bathpool Ski/Rugby Clubs Knutton Depot Offices Alexandra Road Changing Room Kidsgrove Public Offices Rear Extension Crematorium House, Chapel, Toilets, Canteen Area St Georges (additional site)	£8,286	£17,000	£2,580
Museum - Low Energy Lights, Double glazing.	£11,309	£9,600	£2,800
Merial St Toilets – Install fuel efficient boiler	£1,146	£1,150	£800
PIR's – Various sites including Garage /workshops / Depot / St Georges	£7,017	£8,000	£3,075
Total	£33,638	£44,400	£19,255

2.4 Officers are currently in the process of claiming the cost of the projects from the IEWP as part of the Low Carbon Fund.

2.5 As highlighted above the delivery of the Carbon Management Plan is monitored through the Carbon Board. A corporate Carbon Management Officers Team is responsible for implementing the plan seeking new projects as well as monitoring the progress of projects. Scrutiny Members may be interested to consider the whole programme and therefore the Plan is attached for consideration.

3. Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities

3.1 The delivery of these projects clearly contributes to the priority of Promoting a cleaner, safer and sustainable borough.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

4.1 The Council has committed to paying 10% of the annual financial savings for 3 years to the IEWP.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

5.1 The benefits of investing in energy efficiency measures will benefit all members of the community and will not impact on particular equality strands.

6. Financial and Resource Implications

6.1 The grant is being claimed from the IEWP following completion of the projects. As stated earlier the Council has to pay 10% of the subsequently generated annual revenue savings

back to IEWM for 3 years following the first year of implementation. The estimated saving is £19,255 which equates to 3 annual payments of £1,925.

7. **Major Risks**

7.1 There are no major risks. Projects were amended to ensure delivery in line with the conditions of the IEWP funding.

8. **Key Decision Information**

8.1 The funding will deliver improvements to Council buildings that are used by a range of the residents potentially from wards across the Borough.

9. **Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions**

9.1 Cabinet in February 2012 noted the decision of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Recycling that the £35,000 funding is claimed from the Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands to deliver energy efficiency improvements in the premises referred to in the report.

10. **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Carbon Management Plan Delivery Plan

11. **Background Papers**

None.