



OFFICER DECISION RECORD

This form should be used to record Executive decisions taken by Officers

Decision Ref. No:			
Service Area:	Marketing, Communications and Policy	Date:	12 March 2024
Contact Name:	Gail Scholes	Tel No:	01202 817834
E-mail:	Gail.scholes@bcpcouncil.gov.uk		
Subject:	Local Net Zero Capacity & Development Fund - bid		
Decision taken: To bid for a total of £100,000 Government funding to undertake further work on geothermal and heat network opportunities in the BCP Council area.			
Reasons for the decision: to reduce emissions and contribute to the Council's area-wide Climate and Ecological Emergency commitments.			
Background: Heat network zoning will fundamentally transform the development of new heat networks in towns and cities. By designating geographic zones where heat networks are expected to be the lowest cost solution for decarbonising heat, it will ensure that more homes and businesses can have access to greener, cheaper heat. A new Heat Network Zoning Authority, based within central government, will oversee the implementation of heat network zoning and set national standards. Local zoning co-ordinators will also be established within local government with responsibility for designating areas as heat network zones and enforcing requirements within them. The Government has established the Local Net Zero Capacity & Development Fund, making £1million available for councils to bid for to assist in decarbonisation projects, including heat networks. BCP Council wants to be ready for the forthcoming Heat Network Zoning transformation and positioned to take advantage of the opportunities it will afford. Building on HNDU funded studies from 2017, for two possible heat networks in Bournemouth and Poole, and a further 2022 prefeasibility report on geothermal potential in Bournemouth, the Council wishes to further investigate possibilities for renewable heat. Newcastle University have carried out preliminary research on potential across the area for geothermal energy and heat networks and this bid aims to consolidate previous studies in order to establish where the opportunities for geothermal energy and heat networks exist and prepare the Council and partners for implementation. The project outputs are:			

- A definitive desktop study by Newcastle University of the geothermal potential in the area, including 2 deep wells
- A study of suitable heat network locations in readiness for heat network zoning (including site-specific feasibility studies of key areas)
- Aligning strategic partners to take advantage of geothermal/heat network opportunities (including the Council, NHS, higher education)
- Drafting a suitable Memorandum of Understanding between partners
- Identifying investment options for public/private partnerships
- Drawing up a framework for delivery
- Ensuring the Council is prepared to act on Heat Network Zoning
- SW Hub to provide Net Zero Investment Readiness Assessment Service when proposal reaches appropriate stage

Options considered:

Option 1. To support the bid and assist reducing emissions in line with the Council's corporate priorities and Climate Action Plan.

Option 2. To not support the bid and not assist reducing emissions in line with the Council's corporate priorities and Climate Action Plan.

Consultations undertaken: none

Note: It is the responsibility of the 'Responsible Officer' – that is the Officer making the decision – to obtain the comments and signature of the Chief Finance Officer and Monitoring Officer **before** taking the decision and then send the completed record of the decision to Democratic Services for publication.

Finance and Resourcing Implications: No significant implications to highlight. Agreement based on the bid being for £25k local capacity grant and £75k strategic development grant there is no requirement for match funding. Worth noting the money has to be spent within a year of receipt otherwise it will have to be repaid.

Funding identified: none required

Financial risks: none identified

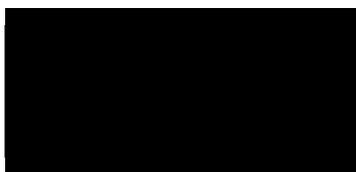
Value for Money assessment: n/a

VAT implications: Amounts are exclusive of VAT.

Name: Matthew Filmer

Date: 13/03/24

Signature (of Assistant Chief Finance Officer):



Legal Implications:

No significant adverse legal implications to highlight. Officers are granted delegated operational decision-making authority to bid for external grant funding. The grant funding imposes light conditions as mentioned and subsequent agreements to appoint and engage partners to deliver the project objectives must be compliant to the Council's own subsidy control and procurement rules.

Name: Janie Berry

Date: 21.03.2024

Signature (of Deputy Monitoring Officer):



Risk Assessment:

If the Council does not enter a funding bid it risks further damage to local infrastructure from climate change, losing the possibility to create cheaper, renewable heat for itself and partners, resulting reputational damage and missing the opportunity to address its own Climate and Ecological Emergency.

Name: Neil Short, Strategic Lead - Sustainability

Date: 12/03/24

Signature (of Officer Completing Assessment):



Impact Assessments:

Note:

- EIA: No positive/negative impact on protected characteristics.
- DIA: Environmental Impact is low as project will help address climate change and energy use.

Information for publication / not for publication

Note:

- This information can be public.

Background Papers

South West Net Zero Hub: Local Net Zero Capacity & Development Fund - Fund Overview

https://bcpcouncil-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/neil_short_bcpcouncil_gov_uk/Ee23Oc4h7ThFoekKAwoF92cB-YraMQ5Zspq4JQvWf-SbbQ?e=WRdl6W

Any declaration of interest by the Officer responsible for the decision	Nature of Interest
No	

Note: No Officer having an personal financial interest in any matter should take a decision on that matter. Other interests of a non-disqualifying matter should be recorded here.

Any conflict of interest declared by a Cabinet Member who is consulted by the Officer taking the decision	Name of Cabinet Member	Nature of interest	Details of any dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer
No			

Decision taken by: Isla Reynolds, Director of Marketing, Communications and Policy

Signature:



Date of Decision: 27 March 2024

Date Decision Effective: 27 March 2024

Date of Publication of record of decision: (to be inserted by Democratic Services)

Note: A record of this decision should be kept by the Service Area within which the decision falls.