

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision 16 May 2022

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure & Community
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Grant Money for Carbon Reduction Initiatives at Community Centres</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Leisure opportunities for health and fun Protect and enhance the environment

#### **Purpose:**

This report presents a proposal to fund up to £30,000 of carbon reduction measures across the Council's 10 community centres, the majority of which would be by utilising the remaining £26,750 previously ringfenced for the COVID-19 Special Grants Programme.

#### **Executive summary:**

The Council has made a commitment to becoming carbon neutral in its operations by 2030.

2019/20 is used as the baseline year for measuring our carbon footprint and the Council's total emissions of greenhouse gases that year were equivalent to 3,661 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Of those, 219 tonnes were from our 10 community centres.

Any significant carbon reduction measures would require external funding. However, there is an opportunity to fund £30,000 worth of appropriate smaller measures e.g. radiator reflectors, LED lightbulbs and carbon literacy training.

The improvements would be funded via the remaining £26,750 previously ringfenced for the COVID-19 Special Grants Programme. An additional £3,250 would round the fund up to £30,000 in total.

#### **Recommendation:**

It is recommended that the Executive:

- (a) approves the establishment of a £30,000 community centre carbon reduction fund; and
- (b) agrees that the remaining £26,750 previously ringfenced for the COVID-19 Special Grants Programme be used to help fund the programme.

**Reason:**

To help reduce the Council's carbon footprint whilst also encouraging wider carbon emissions across the Borough.

**Cost of proposals:**

The remaining £26,750 previously ringfenced for the COVID-19 Special Grants Programme, supplemented by £3,250 from would round the fund up to £30,000.

**Background papers: None**

**Reference papers: None**

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### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	16 May 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Grant Money for Carbon Reduction Initiatives at Community Centres
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. This report presents a proposal to support carbon reduction efforts in our Community Centres using the unspent funding from the COVID-19 Special Grants Programme.

#### BACKGROUND

2. The Council has made a commitment to becoming carbon neutral in its operations by 2030. 2019/20 is used as the baseline year for measuring our carbon footprint and the Council's total emissions of greenhouse gases that year were equivalent to 3,661 tonnes of carbon dioxide. Our total carbon footprint is split up into 3 Scopes:
  - *Scope 1 (1,379 tonnes):* Direct emissions from our operations e.g. fuel for our refuse collection vehicles
  - *Scope 2 (550 tonnes):* Electricity used in site buildings e.g. the Civic and Depot
  - *Scope 3 (1,732 tonnes):* Indirect emissions e.g. buildings that we own but don't directly control e.g. leisure and community facilities.
3. The Council's ten community centres sit within Scope 3 and accounted for 219 tonnes or 13% of that scope's emissions in 2019/20.
4. On 1 November 2021 the Executive approved the allocation of £433,000 for urgent significant repair works to community buildings. Due to financial challenges, no other projects were considered.
5. At this point in time, funding for significant energy efficiency improvements e.g. installing ground source heat pumps or energy generation schemes e.g. mounting solar panels onto the roofs of community centres will likely need to be funded by external sources e.g. government grants.
6. However, there are opportunities to implement smaller and simpler changes that would contribute to reducing a building's carbon footprint at a lower cost.

## **COVID-19 SPECIAL GRANTS PROGRAMME**

7. The 12 October 2020 Executive approved the establishment of a £30,000 ringfenced COVID-19 Special Grants Programme to support charitable and voluntary organisations with one-off payments of £250 during the pandemic.
8. The remaining funding available at the end of the year was carried over to 2021/22, amounting to £26,750, following successful applications from 13 organisations.

## **PROPOSAL**

9. It is proposed that the remaining £26,750 in the Covid-19 Special Grants Programme be topped up to £30,000 to fund simple carbon reduction measures in our 10 community centres.
10. That Leisure and Community and Property Services conduct an annual survey of community buildings. As part of this process, potential carbon reduction measures are identified for each building, e.g.:
  - Purchasing small energy saving products e.g. LED lightbulbs, radiator foils and water tank thermal covers
  - New heating controls
  - Draft proofing/sealing
  - Replacing old/energy inefficient appliances
  - Contributing towards the costs of larger capital projects e.g. insulation, solar panels or boilers
  - Funding the additional cost of switching to a renewable tariff for a transitional period e.g. 3 years
  - Carbon literacy training, including how to manage buildings in the most energy efficient ways.
11. Due to the differing sizes and ages of the Council's community centres, their individual carbon footprints and carbon reduction potential vary. Therefore, the £30,000 would be allocated across the 10 centres in such a way as to ensure the greatest reduction in our overall Scope 3 emissions.

## **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

12. The remaining £26,750 previously ringfenced for the COVID-19 Special Grants Programme would fund the majority of the overall £30,000 budget. The additional £3,250 would be funded through existing budgets.

## **NEXT STEPS**

13. The annual survey of community buildings will begin shortly, with potential carbon reduction measures being identified for each building. Most of the support and measures could be provided during 2022/23 and emissions for 2022/23 will be calculated and reported in July 2023. It should be possible to identify some limited emission reductions from community centres at this point.

## **CONCLUSION**

14. The proposal to fund up to £30,000 of carbon reduction measures across the Council's 10 community centres will both help reduce our Scope 3 carbon emissions and encourage broader climate change activities across the Borough.

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Roy Brown. (Ext 4489)