

Time started 10.03am
Time ended 10.14am

Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 28 February 2023

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

In Attendance Andy Hills – Climate Change Manager
 Gemma Sylva – Climate Change Programme Manager

16/22 Apologies

There were no apologies.

17/22 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not apply

It was noted that the decision sought at 20/22 did not constitute a Key Decision and therefore call-in did not apply.

The reason for urgency was that the deadline for submitting the bid was the 1 March 2023 and that the next scheduled meeting of Cabinet was 15 March which was after the deadline for submission of bids.

18/22 Declarations of interest

There were none.

19/22 Minutes of the meetings held on 4 October 2022

The minutes of the meetings held on 4 October 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Urgent Decision – Contract and Financial Procedure Matter

20/22 Innovate UK Fast Followers competition

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on Innovate UK Fast Followers competition. It was reported that the aim of this competition was to support local authorities in up to 20 places and to fund a dedicated net zero innovation and delivery officer role. It was reported that the funding aimed to help further develop net zero delivery plans, improve delivery pathways and enable adoption at scale of innovative products and services.

It was noted that Innovate UK was the United Kingdom's innovation agency, which provided money and support to organisations to make new products and services. It was noted that Innovate UK was a non-departmental public body operating at arm's length from the Government as part of the United Kingdom Research and Innovation organisation. It was reported that bids must be submitted by 1 March 2023 and if successful, would run from July 2023 to June 2025.

It was noted that this latest opportunity provided funding of between £250,000 and £300,000 per place over 2 years if successful. It was noted that this would be used to:

- recruit a specific Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer to participate in the programme
- actively participate in a programme of net zero delivery support modules to be provided by Innovate UK and its partners
- implement the learning gained to a specific net zero project.

It was reported that Derby's approach would be twofold, firstly centred around the Council's Climate Change Action Plan, which identified those things the Council could do within its own control and influence to reduce its carbon footprint and secondly a strong external focus, working with the Council's partners. Partnership was vital in the face of the challenges of decarbonization and adaptation. It was noted that this funding supported the Council's place shaping and enabling role, to facilitate a much wider conversation on climate change, recognising the fact that its own carbon footprint represented a relatively small contribution to emissions (less than 2% for scopes 1 and 2). It was reported that this work would be embedded within the Council's partnership governance structures and this work made up the majority of the Council's proposal.

It was reported that the primary focus of the funding was to address non-technical barriers to action towards net zero such as financing, capacity, skills, engagement and behavioural change. The Council's application was framed around the following main elements:

- a commonly owned net zero marketing campaign for the whole city
- working with the University of Derby on research/consultancy opportunities
- a Net Zero Partnership Board based on the 'green board'
- launch a Let's Talk Derby Climate platform to engage the public
- a Derby carbon insetting project (insetting is carbon offsetting but in a defined local area, ensuring benefits are locally retained for the community)
- a Derby Net Zero Delivery Plan (DNZDP) agreed with our partners
- learning and building our evidence base of data, intelligence and knowledge

It was noted that the Council's bid was being supported locally by The University of Derby, Community Action Derby, East Midlands Chamber and Toyota. This core partnership provided a strong balance in reaching out to the wider city community to ensure that all sectors were represented in the net zero conversation.

It was noted that if the bid was successful, the detailed project development and delivery would be provided in full. It was reported that at this initial stage it was envisaged that the role of each partner, and the work they took on over the two years of the project, would be different. It was noted that the University, for example, would be engaged in many of the project activities, whereas the input of others would be more targeted and specific.

It was reported that the Council itself, as the lead organisation, would not be required to provide any financial support for the project proposal apart from officer time. It was noted that the time devoted to this work would take place irrespective of the outcome of this bid and was already largely accounted for. It was reported that this opportunity would, however, provide more funding to make these things happen more quickly and at greater depth, as well as bringing greater skills, knowledge and experience and a national profile for the city.

It was reported that the Council was supporting another regional bid, led by Nottingham City Council, which included Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire County Councils. It was noted that there were no specific financial commitments in doing this apart from one day/month of officer time, however, it would ensure mutual understanding and alignment whatever the outcome of the Council's bids.

Options Considered

1. Not to apply for this funding: this option was discounted because of the close alignment with the aims of the funding call and what the Council were planning to do anyway in this area along with the funding and national profile it will give the Council.
2. Single regional bid: while this option was considered with the Council's neighbours, it was agreed that Derby had a strong identify through its partnership structures which meant that it would have more impact with a specific city bid. The Council would, of course, work with its neighbouring authorities whatever the outcome.

Decision

1. To approve the submission of the funding bid to Innovate UK by 28 February 2023 and the joint regional bid led by Nottingham City Council.
2. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Communities and Place and the S151 Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Decarbonisation, Strategic Planning and Transport to accept funding.
3. To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Communities and Place and the S151 Officer any minor changes to the bid along with agreeing any contractual arrangements if the bid is successful.

Reasons

1. The Fast Followers competition would secure external funding and profile to help the Council and its partners develop innovative and exciting projects on the road to delivering net zero and to raise its skills, knowledge and experience in the social and technical aspects of this agenda. It will allow the Council to strengthen and accelerate the approach it already wants to take, irrespective of the success of the bid in keeping with the development of the emerging Green Board as a successor to the City's Climate Change Commission.

MINUTES END