



Oversight and Governance

Chief Executive's Department

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Delegated Decisions

Delegated Executive/Officer Decisions

Delegated Executive and Officer decisions are published every week and are available at the following link - <https://tinyurl.com/ms6umor>

Cabinet decisions subject to call-in are published at the following link - <http://tinyurl.com/yddrql6>

Notice of call-in for non-urgent decisions must be given to the Democratic Support Unit by 4.30 pm on Monday 4 September 2023. Please note – urgent decisions and non-key Council Officer decisions cannot be called in. Copies of the decisions together with background reports are available for viewing as follows:

- on the Council's Intranet Site at <https://modgov/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx>
- on the Council's website at <https://tinyurl.com/jhnax4e>

The decisions detailed below may be implemented on Tuesday 5 September 2023 it is not called-in.

Delegated Decisions

I. Councillor Briars-Delve - Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change:

- I.1. ECC01 23/24 - Innovate UK's Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places initiative - application for funding for Owing Net Zero project

(Pages 1 - 10)

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a **Cabinet Member**




REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – ECC01 23/24

Decision	
1	<p>Title of decision:</p> <p>Innovate UK's Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places initiative - application for funding for Owing Net Zero project</p>
2	<p>Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title):</p> <p>Councillor Tom Briars-Delve, Cabinet Member for the Environment and Climate Change</p>
3	<p>Report author and contact details:</p> <p>Jonathan Bell, Head of Spatial Planning and Sustainable Development, 01752 304353, jonathan.bell@plymouth.gov.uk</p>
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <p>1. That Plymouth City Council take on the 'lead organisation' role for a bid for Phase 2 funding from the Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places programme of Innovate UK, on behalf of Plymouth Net Zero Partnership for its Owing Net Zero project.</p> <p>2. That the Service Director for Spatial Planning & Infrastructure be authorised to submit the bid for Phase 2 funding on behalf of the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership.</p> <p>3. That authority be delegated to the Strategic Director for Place to accept any Phase 2 funding awarded to the Council under the Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places programme and to award contracts and enter into grant agreements relating to the allocation of any funds successfully secured where they would otherwise not have authority to do so.</p>
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>1. To provide the necessary assurances to the funder and meet the eligibility requirements for the fund.</p> <p>2. To ensure that the bid can be submitted in time for the 6 September 2023 deadline.</p> <p>3. To provide for the effective management of grant funds, if the bid is successful.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>One alternative has been considered and rejected. Namely, that the City Council decline the opportunity to be 'lead organisation' and submit the bid on behalf of the Net Zero Partnership. However, the Council has been asked by the Partnership to take on this role given its capacity to deliver, and the terms of the fund itself identify only a limited range of organisations that it will accept as lead. If the Council were to decline this opportunity, it is highly unlikely that a bid for Phase 2 funding will be able to be made at all, with a significant opportunity cost for the Partnership and the city net zero mission.</p>
7	<p>Financial implications and risk:</p>

	<p>A grant of between £2m and £5m is a potential outcome. This would be funding for the Net Zero Partnership rather than the City Council, although the Council's costs in developing, delivering and monitoring the project would be met. The Council would also have a significant influence over the identification of collaboration projects and initiatives that the grant funding would be allocated to. There is an expectation of match funding from partners, and for the Council this would be from existing resources already allocated to the net zero mission.</p> <p>As the lead organisation, the Council will have a key responsibility in ensuring that the grant is effectively managed and administered.</p>			
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (Please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			X	in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total
			X	in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million
		X	is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.	
	<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>			
9	<p>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</p>			<p>The Corporate Plan has a mission of 'Making Plymouth a fairer, greener city, where everyone does their bit'. Owing Net Zero is all about this mission. It seeks to address barriers to engagement with and ownership of the net zero mission, so that everyone is able to do their bit in helping make Plymouth a low carbon city.</p> <p>The Plymouth Plan sets out the aspiration for Plymouth to be a net zero city by 2030. The Owing Net Zero project is focussed explicitly on supporting this aspiration.</p>
10	<p>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</p>			<p>The Owing Net Zero project exists precisely because there is a need for wider engagement of the city in driving down carbon emissions and helping the city to become net zero. Its implications are therefore entirely positive.</p>
Urgent decisions				
11	<p>Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public?</p>	Yes		(If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice)
		No	X	(If no, go to section 13a)
12a	<p>Reason for urgency:</p>			

12b	Scrutiny Chair Signature:		Date	
	Scrutiny Committee name:			
	Print Name:			
Consultation				
13a	Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision?	Yes		
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	(If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?			
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	17 August 2023		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne	
		Job title	Strategic Director for Place	
		Date consulted	11 August 2023	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS 32 23/24	
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.23.24.83	
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/00001312/1/AC/2 2/8/23	
		Human Resources (if applicable)	n/a	
		Corporate property (if applicable)	n/a	
		Procurement (if applicable)	n/a	
Appendices				
	Ref.	Title of appendix		

17	A	Owning Net Zero - Background Paper						
Confidential/exempt information								
18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain)				
		No	X					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							
Background Papers								
19	Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.							
Title of background paper(s)		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Cabinet Member Signature								
20	I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.							
Signature					Date of decision			
					25/08/2023			

Print Name	Cllr Tom Briars-Delve
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OWNING NET ZERO - BACKGROUND PAPER



Introduction

In April 2023, Plymouth City Council was successful in securing Phase 1 funding to develop a project called 'Owning Net Zero', as part of Innovate UK's 'Net Zero Living: Pathfinder Places' initiative. Innovate UK is part of UK Research and Innovation.

The bid was submitted on behalf of the Plymouth Net Zero Partnership. £15,490 was awarded to the City Council, along with £43,077 to other partners (making a total grant award of £58,567). The project explored non-technical systemic barriers to organisational and wider city ownership of and engagement in the net zero mission, with a view to supporting a Phase 2 bid for Pathfinder funding from the programme.

The Net Zero Partnership has now been invited to submit for Phase 2 funding. Innovate UK's investment in Phase 2 projects is intended to support Phase 1 projects to deliver and demonstrate their innovative approaches to unlock non-technical systemic barriers to the delivery of net zero targets.

Phase 1

The Phase 1 project team presented their findings to the Net Zero Partnership Executive Board on 11 August 2023. Key messages and findings included the following:

- There is a genuine ambition amongst many stakeholders in the city to collaborate on the net zero challenge.
- Many stakeholders expressed the view that they have a responsibility to the city, not just to their own organisation.
- The lack of active ownership of the net zero challenge by many local stakeholders, and the barriers to them collaborating effectively on projects, is a significant contributor to the slow progress on net zero. Collaboration is vital.
- Plymouth has significant strengths to build upon with active networks of stakeholders who are taking responsibility for their own emissions. The Net Zero Partnership is an important foundation for launching and coordinating future action.
- Efforts to address more specific non-technical barriers will be more effective if done with others.
- Success in reducing emissions at scale can only happen with organisations acting in partnership.
- A variety of barriers to this effective collaboration exist, particularly:
 - The complex mix of pressures on organisations including internal and external targets for net zero, different priorities tied to different business models, competing sustainability projects, internal and external funding timeframes etc.
 - Lack of leadership and coordination capacity when it comes to facilitating collaboration on specific projects
 - Availability of time / funding.

We have received positive feedback on the Phase 1 work, and therefore encouragement to pursue a Phase 2 bid.

Phase 2

Innovate UK's aim of the competition for Phase 2 funds is to:

- Demonstrate how market barriers can be broken down in practice, and for businesses to access the market opportunity available.
- Build capacity and capability in places to address the net zero transition challenge
- Enable knowledge exchange between places, to learn, adapt and accelerate their own plans.

Key points relating to Phase 2 bids include the following:

- £2-5m is available for each project, from a national funding pot of £25m. This could comprise a combination of revenue and capital, but probably with emphasis on revenue costs related to delivering a systems approach to net zero collaboration and engagement.
- Each project will have 18-21 months for implementation.
- The deadline for submissions is 6 September 11am.
- Bids either need to be led by Local Authority or by a business with at least one SME partner.
- Bids must consider the whole net zero system in their area, addressing a minimum of two systems such as heat, power, mobility and manufacturing, or other major emissions sources in the locality.

The Partnership's Executive Board on 11 August 2023 requested that Plymouth City Council be the lead organisation for the Phase 2 bid, and therefore also the accountable body.

The core ideas behind the Phase 2 bid proposed for the Partnership are as follows:

- To expand active ownership of the challenges amongst city organisations and stakeholders and supporting them to collaborate effectively on the solutions.
- To deliver a shift change in the resource available for local inter-organisation collaboration and to focus this on the key areas where local action will be a key lever in the City's net zero journey.
- To test and learn new ways of creating active ownership of specific projects and organising the collaborative structures necessary to address them.
- To build upon the foundations that have already been laid in the Partnership's governance model.
- To complement and reinforce other existing areas of collaboration and project focus. E.g. the Net Zero Partnership's theme groups, Health, VCSE Sector, Plymouth Energy Community. The resulting collaborative groups would be focused on delivering specific projects, this will encompass addressing the relevant non-technical barriers. These collaborative groups would benefit from the expertise, connections and financial resource of a 'Collaboration Hub' virtual team to successfully deliver their projects.

The following 'collaborative theme areas' were agreed by the Executive Board for the bid:

- Leadership Collaboration - Supporting collaboration amongst senior decision-makers across the city.
- Anchor organisations based collaboration - Plymouth Net Zero Action Group, procurement, offsetting, staff engagement.
- Local Market Development based collaboration - i.e. Retrofit SMEs, Green Skills, Net Zero Construction, Future Plymouth 2030.
- Policy focused Collaboration i.e. JLP Review
- Community Outreach & Engagement - Collaboration required to build capacity and capability of local VCSE network
- Digital based collaboration – Climate Connections platform.

The bidding document itself will need to cover the following:

- Details of all partners and sub-contractors working on the project.
- A narrative about the need or challenge that the project is responding to, following from the Phase 1 work, including the specific non-technical barriers that will need to be resolved.

- The key objectives that we want to achieve from Phase 2 project.
- The overall approach and focus of the innovation.
- The net zero systems that we will be focussing on.
- How the project it will help accelerate our progress towards net zero targets and how we will build on the learnings from this project to influence net zero plans beyond the funding period.
- Details of the project team, resources needed and vital external parties, including sub-contractors.
- The resources, equipment and facilities needed for the project and how you will access them.
- Details of key stakeholders.
- Description of what citizen engagement is required, and how it will be made representative.
- Details of what collaboration mechanisms we currently have in place that will be used and what new mechanisms we will need to set up for this project.
- Description of our governance, and how equality, diversity and inclusion has been incorporated into the project.
- Explanation of how we are going to deliver long term accelerated progress towards net zero as a result of the project.
- An explanation of project costs and the grant being requested, including match funding from partners. Each organisation involved will need to identify their own project costs.

The project itself is not fully developed at this stage, but the focus here is on process, systems, objectives and being clear about the barriers being addressed to accelerate progress to net zero.

Next steps

- Net Zero Partnership project team to work up detailed bid for submission.
- Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change Executive Decision, 24 August 2023.
- Submission of bid by 11am 6 September
- Net Zero Partnership project team to continue to work up detailed project for implementation, in event that funding secured.

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