

Community Climate Grants Update

Date: 15 December 2023

Report of: Chief Officer Climate, Energy and Green Spaces

Report to: Climate Emergency Advisory Committee

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

Brief summary

This report provides an update on the progress of the community climate grants fund, which is a WYCA funded project providing funding of up to £50,000 for community projects that reduce carbon and have a positive impact on equalities and/or deprivation.

The first bidding window closed in early November with 29 bids received. This report provides details of the value of bids, the areas of the city projects will benefit, and the broad project categories they will deliver.

A further sum worth approximately up to £100,000 for Leeds is to be made available by WYCA for a second round of funding. This report suggests a range of options for distributing funding differently in a second funding round and encourages the views of the committee on these options.

Recommendations

- a) To note the update on community climate grants and provide views on the process for distributing additional funding made available for a second funding wave.

What is this report about?

- 1 Community Climate Grants is a WYCA funded initiative to provide funding to projects in local communities across West Yorkshire that reduce carbon and have a positive impact on deprivation and/or inequality.
- 2 Each authority in West Yorkshire was provided with an allocation to distribute to projects in their area. The total value of this funding is £2 million across West Yorkshire. The value in Leeds is £604,000, with £544,000 to be awarded as project grants.
- 3 Community groups were invited to bid for funding worth between £5,000 and £50,000. All projects must demonstrate they will lead to a reduction in carbon emissions and have a positive impact on deprivation and/or inequality. Projects must fall into at least one of four low carbon priority areas:
 - a) Green and climate ready nature solutions
 - b) Healthy affordable and efficient buildings
 - c) Local, clean and renewable energy
 - d) Walking, cycling and public transport
- 4 The scheme launched in Leeds in early September, with an initial application window to 3rd November.

Details of bids received

- 5 Bidding closed on 3rd November. At time of writing this report, evaluation of bids is ongoing and will be complete by mid-December. We can therefore only share aggregate details on the submitted bids.
- 6 We received 29 bids in total within the deadline, with a total value of £869,113 - approximately £325,000 more than the funding available. The value of bids is clustered more around the higher end - we received ten worth £40k-£50k. The remaining bids had a fairly even spread along the value scale.

	£5k-£10k	£10k - £20k	£20k - 30k	£30k - £40k	£40k - £50k	Total value of all bids
Bids received	5	6	4	4	10	
Total value	£43,276.00	£102,957.62	£95,702.00	£145,700.00	£481,478.00	£869,113.62
% of all bids value	4.98%	11.85%	11.01%	16.76%	55.40%	

- 7 There was a fairly even spread among the four low carbon priority areas except for walking, cycling and public transport in which we only received two bids.

	Local clean and flexible energy solutions	Healthy, affordable and efficient buildings	Walking, cycling and public transport	Green and climate ready nature solutions
Bids received	8	8	2	11
% of total	27.59%	27.59%	6.90%	37.93%

- 8 A summary of bidders' stated beneficiary postcode areas is shown below. The table only shows the top ten postcode areas provided; bidders could provide multiple areas which is why the number of bids benefitting each area is more than the total number of bids.

Leeds Postcodes	Total bids benefitting each area	Percentage
LS14	10	11%
LS10	8	8%
LS9	7	7%
LS11	6	6%
LS15	5	5%
LS17	5	5%
LS8	5	5%
LS13	4	4%
LS21	4	4%
LS5	4	4%

Additional funding

- 9 We are anticipating that further funding of c£100,000 will be available to the council for a second wave of funding, on top of any funding not allocated in wave 1. This in part consists of Leeds's share of approximately £150,000 top-up funding that was retained from the first funding wave by WYCA, with the intention to decide how it should be distributed at a later date. It was recently agreed that this would be distributed proportionally to each constituent authority along the same lines as the initial funding pot. Leeds's share of this will be approximately £50,000
- 10 WYCA are also bidding for further funding from the National Lottery. This is likely to be worth a further £150,000 across West Yorkshire. Leeds would be entitled to approximately a third of this funding in total based on allocation by population, meaning we would expect to receive £50,000 of this additional funding.
- 11 We would welcome views on options for amending the bidding process to distribute this additional funding. Potential options include:
- a) Run an open bidding process along the lines of wave 1
 - b) Focus on postcode areas underrepresented in the first wave of funding
 - c) Focus on project types underrepresented in the first wave of funding
 - d) Focus on lower value projects due to the lower amount of funding available
- 12 We are looking to launch a second wave of funding as soon as possible once funding allocations for wave 1 have been decided.

What impact will this proposal have?

13 The Community Climate Grants Scheme directly funds projects across that reduce carbon emissions and have a positive impact on deprivation and/or inequality.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

14 Community Climate Grants will fund projects in Leeds communities that directly reduce carbon and that in many cases will have a positive impact on health and wellbeing such as warmer buildings, improved greenspaces and community food growing.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:
Have ward members been consulted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

15 Not applicable

What are the resource implications?

16 There are no direct resource implications as a result of this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

17 There are no specific risk management implications as a result of this report.

What are the legal implications?

18 There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

19 Not applicable

How will success be measured?

20 Not applicable

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

21 Not applicable

Appendices

- None

Background papers

None