

From: Susan Carey, Cabinet Member for Environment  
Barbara Cooper- Corporate Director - Growth, Environment and Transport

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 18 March 2021

Decision No: N/A – For information only

Subject: **Decisions taken between Cabinet Committee Meetings (21/00034)**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member Decision

**Future Pathway of Paper:** N/A

**Electoral Division:** County-wide

**Summary:** The attached decision was taken between meetings of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee as it could not be reasonably deferred to the next programmed meeting of the Cabinet Committee for the reasons set out in paragraphs 2.2 to 2.6 below.

**Recommendation:**

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to note that the following decision has been taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution:

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The following decision has been taken between meetings of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, as it could not reasonably be deferred.

21/00034 – Public Decarbonisation Fund -Section 31 Award.

**2. Report**

- 2.1 In July 2020, Kent County Council set an accelerated target of net-zero emissions by 2030 for its own estate and operations (excluding schools) and those of its traded companies'. The report to County Council identified that, depending on the specifics of schemes taken forward, investment in the region of £27m will be required and this would be identified from several sources

**Chronology:**

- 2.2 In Autumn 2020, the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and Salix announced £1bn of grant funding to support projects tackling climate change.

- 2.3 On 4 December 2020, KCC submitted a bid for £20.6m of projects, plus up to £5m for schools-based projects. Although the bid was submitted within the application window, after submitting the bid, KCC was informed that the fund had been fully committed to earlier applicants on a **‘first come first served’ basis.**
- 2.4 Subsequently, on 4 February 2021, BEIS invited the relevant local authorities to a seminar at which BEIS advised that the completion timeline had been extended until 30 September 2021, and that the grant would be awarded to councils as a Section 31 grant.
- 2.5 Salix then sent a Grant Offer Letter to KCC on Monday 15 February 2021 for up to £21m for several proposed energy projects and up to a further £1.2m for school site energy projects, stating for the first time that if KCC wanted to receive the grant, it must accept the binding terms within ten days of receipt of the Grant Offer Letter. This meant that in order to secure the funding the decision to accept the grant funding had to be taken by 1 March 2021
- 2.6 Due to the timetable set by BEIS and Salix, an urgent decision was needed to secure the Grant funding which represents a significant level of investment against the estimate £27m investment needed.
- 2.8 In accordance with urgency procedures the decision was therefore taken without consideration by Members of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee. As part of this process the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Group Spokespeople of the Scrutiny Committee and the Chair and Group Spokespeople of the Environment & Transport Cabinet were asked to comment. All comments received have been included on the formal Record of Decision.

### **3. Recommendation**

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to note that the following decision has been taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council’s constitution:

21/0034 Public Decarbonisation Fund -Section 31 Award.

### **4. Background Documents**

21/00034 – Record of Decision

### **5. Contact details**

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