

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Cabinet
Date:	16 March 2021
Title:	Update on Salix Grant
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services

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Purpose of this Report

1. To update Cabinet on minor changes to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant for glazing replacement to County Council Buildings.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that Cabinet should:
 - i. Note the variation to the Salix grant for double glazing replacement from £20.2m to £16.94m
 - ii. Approve an underwrite of up to £3.27m from the government's Schools Condition Allocation grant funding to ensure that the carbon reduction glazing replacement programme can be delivered in full.

Background

3. In December 2020 Salix, the organisation responsible for managing the governments Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant, awarded the County Council £20.2m to replace single to double glazing across a significant amount of the school estate in order to achieve significant carbon reductions and energy savings together with investing in the local construction economy during the pandemic. Salix recently contacted us for further discussions relating to a highly technical issue concerning the measurement of building size and glazing area and the associated carbon savings reduction.
4. As a result of due diligence by Salix on this issue and consideration of its impact on their funding model and our application, it has been necessary for them to reduce their grant slightly, to £16.94m, to ensure it still meets the criteria for carbon reduction per pound of spend. The condition of this funding is that the

County Council must still deliver the full programme as initially set out in our grant submission.

5. It is possible that with effective procurement and programme management that we will be able to achieve this within the £16.94m grant funding envelope. However, the original estimates of cost did equate to the £20.2m that was initially awarded. It will therefore be prudent to ensure that sufficient alternative funding is identified to underwrite any gap that may emerge in the course of the programme.
6. The government allocated the County Council an additional £8m of Schools Condition Allocation funding in 2020. A proportion of that funding has not yet been allocated to any specific project and it is therefore proposed to earmark up to £3.27m to underwrite the glazing replacement on the school buildings. This is very much in line with the planning for that grant funding anyway – with the ongoing upgrade of SCOLA buildings being a high priority. It will address condition, thermal performance and health and safety issues.

Conclusion

7. This change of approach and funding model will require a minor adaptation to the capital programme and its financing but will have no impact on the delivery of the glazing replacement programme for the County Council school estate.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes/no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes/no
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes/no

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation).
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it.
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The proposed decision relates to minor changes to the Salix Grant for double glazing replacement and has no implications for individuals or groups of people with protected characteristics.