

Exercise of emergency functions – Acceptance of the sum of £2,486,827 (Two Million Four Hundred and Eighty-Six Thousand Eight Hundred and Twenty-Seven Pounds) from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (“the Funding Amount”) for the delivery of Decarbonisation Improvements to Coventry Maintained Schools (“the Scheme”)

1. Part 2M of the constitution of the City Council provides for the Scheme of Functions delegated to Employees including to the Chief Executive/Head of Paid Service.
2. Paragraph 3.8 of Part 2M of the Constitution enables the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader to make decisions required in an emergency.
3. In response to the Coronavirus, Covid – 19, the Government has announced there would be additional funding to bring forward decarbonisation projects in the public sector to stimulate the country’s economic recovery.
4. The Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) is a grant scheme that will fund energy efficiency improvements and the transition to low carbon heating systems in public building and is administered by Salix Finance Ltd.
5. Salix Finance Ltd on 24th February 2021 have offered a £2,486,827 grant to support projects in Coventry schools which would be made through the section 31 mechanism for local authorities. There is a deadline of the 5th March 2021 to accept this grant offer.
6. If accepted, the Funding Amount will be transferred to the Council immediately and this funding will upon receipt need to be added to the Council’s Capital Programme.
7. The Council wishes to accept the Funding Amount to enable additional energy efficiency projects to be undertaken on our school estate.
8. On the basis set out above, I am satisfied that the decision being taken pursuant to this emergency provision is critical to the Council’s ability to accelerate the transition to Net Zero by enabling projects that would otherwise not be able to take place.
9. In light of the above I agree that this constitutes an emergency and I am making the decision that the City Council:
 - accepts the PSDS Funding Amount up to the sum of £2,486,827 from the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy;
 - that this Funding Amount be added to the Council’s Capital Programme;
 - delegated authority be given to the Director of Finance and Corporate Service to finalise the terms and conditions of the funding agreements, enter into the necessary funding agreements to accept the grant; and

- delegated authority be given to the Head of Education Entitlement, in consultation with the Director of Finance and Corporate Service and the Director of Education and Skills, to finalise the selection and undertake any procurement activities required to deliver projects under the Scheme whilst ensuring that eligibility criteria are adhered to.

I have consulted with the Leader of the City Council to confirm his agreement to this course of action.

A report will be taken to Council at the next appropriate meeting that will include information about this emergency decision.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Reeves', written in a cursive style.

Chief Executive of Coventry City Council

Dated: 25 February 2021