

This report will be made public on 20 March 2024



Report Number **C/23/100**

To: Councillor Jim Martin, Leader
Date: 20 March 2024
Status: Non-Key Decision
Corporate Director: Ewan Green, Director of Place

SUBJECT: GREEN BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME

SUMMARY:

This report sets out applications recommended for approval for the Green Business Grant Scheme and seeks confirmation for the grant award.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

The Leader is asked to agree to the recommendations of the Decision Panel on grant awards, as set out below, because agreement is needed on these applications to the Green Business Grant Scheme.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1. To receive and note Report C/23/100.**
- 2. To approve the recommended grant applications to the Green Business Grant Scheme as summarised this report.**

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. The Cabinet of Folkestone & Hythe District Council approved the mechanism for establishing and managing the Green Business Grant Scheme in February 2022 (C/21/80). The funding for this Scheme has been secured from the climate change reserve.

2. GREEN BUSINESS GRANT SCHEME

- 2.1. The aim of the Green Business Grant Scheme is to support the priorities and objectives of the Council's Carbon Action Plan whereby objectives relate to the need to promote and support green business and decarbonisation efforts across the district.
- 2.2. The Green Business Grant Scheme normally provides non-repayable grants of up to £10,000, but grants of up to £25,000 may be considered in exceptional circumstances.
- 2.3. Grants awarded can cover up to 40% of a total project cost, with the remaining 60% coming from the company's own resources, including bank loans, or other suitable grant schemes if applicable.
- 2.4. The grant funding through the scheme can be used for small businesses to implement measures that will deliver reductions in the carbon levels of the business. Though not exhaustive, this may include for example, solar panels, insulation, LED lighting, more efficient heating or boiler/ heat pump.
- 2.5. The grant scheme was launched in April 2022 and grant applications will be accepted at any time until the closure of the scheme. The scheme is expected to run until either 31st March 2024 or until funds have been allocated.
- 2.6. Applications received are assessed in the first instance by the Economic Development Team. Final decisions on individual applications are made by the Leader of the Council, in collaboration with the Lead Cabinet Member of the District Economy, Lead Cabinet Member for the Environment, and a ward member determined by the location or proposed location of the business.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A GREEN BUSINESS GRANT

- 3.1 The table below lists applications recommended for approval by the Decision Panel. Reasons for the recommendations are also summarised.

| Name of Applicant | Purpose of Grant | Town/ Area | Recommend Green Business Grant award (up to) | Recommendations of the Decision Panel £ | Conditions of grant award including |
|-------------------------|--|------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|
| Docker Fermentation Ltd | Installation of pellet based baking oven | Folkestone | 40% of capital works | £25,000 | New premises lease signed |

4. LEGAL, FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

4.1 Legal Officer's comments (NM)

There are no legal implications associated with the recommendations in this report. However, any grants that are made available to third parties by FHDC will need to be legally documented and the legal team can assist with this.

4.2 Finance Officer's comments (RH)

As per the Cabinet report February 2022, £250,000 is available from the remaining from the climate change reserve.

4.3 Equality Comment (GE)

There are no equality and diversity implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer:-

Jade Smyth, Senior Economic Development Specialist

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Green Business Grant Scheme guidelines:

<https://folkestone.works/green-business-grant-scheme/>