

Financial Observations - Local Energy Advice

The decision is looking to:

- To accept and spend a grant allocation of £4,440,000 from the Department for Energy security and Net Zero to support regional delivery of Local Energy Advice (LEA) through the Midlands Net Zero Hub (MNZH).
- To authorise allocation of grant funding to Local Authorities and Advice organisations in the Midlands for the delivery of eligible activities by 2025.

The total department of energy security and net zero budget allocations of £4,440,000 are as per below:

Funding: £4,000,000

Staffing and Management: £440,000

Item	Budget
Funding for allocation	4,000,000
Staff costs Year 1 - 3	316,778
Travel	17,900
IT	14,100
Subsistence	4,650
Office Sundries	6,200
Events	10,850
Marketing & other	63,500
Current underspend	6,022
Total:	4,440,000

NCC are the Accountable Body for compliance with the grant conditions. Therefore, it is the responsibility of NCC to ensure robust financial systems are in place to minimise the risk of grant claw-back, and therefore potential financial pressure on NCC. Any claw-back would need to be absorbed within the EWBT.

All expenditure must be subject to NCC Financial Regulations and NCC procurement Rules.

Recruitment Grant Funded Posts x1 Project Support Officer, x1 Principal Officer & x0.4 Project Manager

This decision seeks to approve recruitment to 2.4x grant funded posts on a 2 year fixed term contract basis to deliver the Net Zero Programme.

The Project Support Officer Principal Officer positions need to be fully evaluated by the job evaluation team but, based on the skills and knowledge required of the post holder, and similar roles in the area, it is expected to be evaluated at GLPC F and H accordingly. The Project Manager position is an existing managerial role in the Council, who has oversight the responsibility of the programme.

Financial Considerations

The posts will be fully funded, including pension deficit costs, from the Department for Energy security and Net Zero grant allocation of £4.440m.

The proposed costs of the posts are summarised in **Table 1** below:

Table 1: DESNZ Proposed Cost of 2.4x Grant posts

		£m		
Grade	Post name	Estimated Expenditure*		
		Yr1	Yr2**	Total
Grade F	Project Officer	0.0384	0.0409	0.0793
Grade H	Principal Officer	0.0495	0.0522	0.1017
Grade I (0.4 FTE)	Project Manager	0.0227	0.0238	0.0465
Total		0.11058	0.1169	0.22748
<i>Funded by: DESNZ grant allocation</i>		-0.11058	-0.1169	-0.22748

* Salary costs include on-costs and pension deficit estimate

** Assumes progression to upper scale point

Risk Consideration

Potential national pay awards have not been estimated in the current costings, Additional funding would need to be secured from the relevant LA's to cover any additional cost. Redundancy costs may be applicable at the end of the allocated funding, dependent on employee's LA pension history, and would need to be funded from either securing additional funding from the combined authority or from existing Environment & Sustainability approved budgets

Sejal Mistry – Senior Commercial Business Partner (Environment & Sustainability)
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