Objectives and Outcomes

Help progress the drive for Net Zero in Crawley



<u>Outputs</u>

- Up to 25 business grants to green tech and decarbonising business. (Standard Towns Fund output: No. of enterprises receiving grants)
- Up to 7 green tech start-ups
 (Standard output: # of potential entrepreneurs assisted to be enterprise ready)
- Up to 75 green tech jobs created
 (Standard Towns Fund output: Number of jobs created)
- 100 green jobs safeguarded
- 15 enterprises using high-quality, affordable / sustainable commercial spaces by 2025

Pillar 1 - Grants

- Business Investment Grants
- Up to the value of £175k per grant (50/50 match funding), for small businesses that will reside in Crawley for at least the next 5 years.
- Larger scale grants for already developed technology, which requires capital equipment

Grant Application Process

Grant Application Draft Assessment Criteria

- Small business with proven track record of business growth/performance/delivery
- Level of return on the grant investment in terms of numbers of jobs created / safeguarded and level of business growth.
- Demonstration of technical credibility of green-tech product to be scaled up.
- Demonstrable ability to apply the green-tech products to end users engaged in the decarbonisation of building stock and infrastructure within Crawley.
- For Investment grants and development grants a clear business plan showing how proposed grant investment is a clear strategic fit with overall business growth plans
- Location within Crawley for business expansion.

Indicative Timeframe

- April to October 2022 Design of the Green infrastructure Business Grants
 Programme; Tender process for a Team of Business Advisors to help applicants prepare business cases for the grant applications.
- November 2022 to April 2024 Launch and delivery of potentially three rounds of calls for grant applications. Business grants implementation begins
- April 2024 Review progress for allocation of finance, take-up and outputs/outcomes.
- April 2024 to March 2026 Ongoing implementation of business grants investment in green technology businesses
- January to March 2026 Ex-post evaluation of impact of the Green Infrastructure Business Grants on jobs and business growth in the sector and the extent to which enhanced green business activity has driven down carbon emissions

<u>Finance</u>

| | 22/23 | 23/24 | 24/25 | 25/26 |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|------------------|
| Pillar 1 | £100k | £300k | £300k | £300k |
| Pillar 2 | £200k | £500k | £300k | <mark>£0k</mark> |
| Total £2m | £200k | £600k | £600k | £600k |

| Pillar 1 | Indicative Number of Grants | Indicative total value |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Maximum value of a business | 2 | £350k |
| investment grant: £175,000 | | |
| Maximum value of a business | 8 | £400k |
| development grant: £50,000 | | |
| Maximum value of a business | 18 | £180k |
| start-up grant: £10,000 | | |
| Business Advisors | | £70k |
| TOTAL: | 28 | £1.0m |

Local Energy Community (LEC) Background & Governance

- A Local Energy Community (LEC) is a group of local energy generators, users and other stakeholders who work together to take greater control of their energy supply and management - making it cheaper, cleaner and more resilient
- The LEC will enable companies to invest in clean energy technology together and share the benefits by trading the electricity and heat they generate locally.
- Evidence drawn from 2016 and the EU-funded BISEP project.
- Work developed into a subsequent EU-funded project called LECSea (similar communities in Belgium, France and the Netherlands).
- The Manor Royal LEC will be set up as a not-for-profit organisation.
- The Re-Energise Manor Royal Steering Group will guide the development of the LEC's business plan and operational strategy.
- The development of the LEC up to its launch will be supported by West Sussex County Council and EU funding available through the LECSea project. The LEC will seek funding to support its activities post-launch until it is self-sustaining.

Local Energy Community (LEC) Actions

- The LEC will invest in renewable energy, initially solar PV, to secure a long-term income for its continued operation.
- Provide services to LEC members with their own solar or other energy assets, for example, by aggregating exported solar power and obtaining a higher price than if sold individually.
- Procure services collectively and delivering economies of scale (e.g. shared operation and maintenance arrangements for renewable energy systems)
- Once established, the LEC may develop a broader service to members including:
- Trading energy between members (peer to peer), enabling Manor Royal businesses without renewable energy systems to benefit from local generation.

