

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2021

**Question to Cllr Jessel
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure and Climate Change**

By Cllr Charlotte Atkins

Question

The introduction this year of Climate Change Action Funds for local projects was very welcome. Will such funds be allocated to Councillors in the future? Which Councillors were successful in applying for Climate Change Action Funds, how much were they allocated and how were these funds used within their Divisions? Which Councillors applied for funds but were unsuccessful in securing support for their bids? Which Councillors did not apply for funds for their Division? What was the total sum allocated to Climate Change Action projects?

Reply

The intention is that the Climate Change Action Fund will be launched again this year.

The fund was not allocated directly to Members, the financial allocation to each electoral division was a guide as to how much support was available. The fund was set up to raise awareness in the community to the climate change challenge and the need for everyone to make changes to their lifestyle and environment. Each project applicant had to seek their local councillor support before submitting their application, this gave councillors the opportunity to champion the climate change message

In financial year 2020/21 there were:

- 155 applications in total,
- 107 successful applications,
- 33 unsuccessful,
- 15 pending (had to be put on hold due to elections),

The original fund was launched in October 2020 with a budget of £62K. It rapidly became apparent that the fund was extremely popular with a great amount of interest. A further £62K was then allocated out of the total climate change budget. Therefore, of the total fund that was available over the course of last financial year was £124,000, of this £70,337 has been awarded to projects, with a further £14,110 pending.

The successful applicants' projects ranged in focus, in line with the fund criteria. The majority of the projects were for items such as, LED lights, building insulation, bike shelters (in schools), tree planting and double-glazed windows.

The table below is a summary of the allocation by the eight district/borough council areas (to date excluding pending submissions):

District or Borough	Amount Awarded
Cannock Chase	£7,709.00
East Staffordshire	£10,259.60
Lichfield	£9,971.00
Newcastle	£6,400.00
south Staffordshire	£12,246.00
Stafford	£10,867.00
Staffordshire Moorlands	£11,750.00
Tamworth	£1,135
Total	£70,337.60