



Report to The Leader (Resources and Sport & Leisure portfolios)

Decision Date:	19 March 2021
Reference number:	R01.21
Title:	Salix Grant – Photovoltaic (PV) Solar Panels Chiltern
Relevant councillor(s):	Cllr Martin Tett, Cllr Katrina Wood ,Cllr Clive Harriss
Author and/or contact officer:	Sue Drummond sue.drummond@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
Ward(s) affected:	Amersham and Chesham Bois
Recommendations:	To confirm that the award of the £345,386 Salix Grant (issued as a section 31 unringfenced grant) is to be spent on the installation of PV Solar Panels and water source heat pump at the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre
Reason for decision:	To provide confirmation that the Salix Grant of £345,386 awarded to the Council will be allocated to the relevant project only – Chilterns Lifestyle Centre.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The Council made a successful application to secure Salix funding for the installation of PV Solar Panels and water source heat pump on the new Chilterns Lifestyle Centre and our formal grant award letter for £345,386 has been received and acknowledged on the 16th February. Salix Grant funding is usually received as a project specific ringfenced grant, HM Treasury have decided to issue this year's as a Section 31 unringfenced grant. In order to ensure there is complete clarity on where the grant is allocated, this report provides confirmation that the Salix Grant of £345,386 will be spent on the installation of PV Solar Panels and water source heat pump at the Chiltern Lifestyle Centre.

1.2 Salix, a non-departmental body owned wholly by the Government, provides interest free grant funding to the public sector to reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills.

2. Other options considered

2.1 No other options relevant for consideration.

3. Legal and financial implications

The section 151 assurance letter in respect of this grant award has already been signed in respect of the purpose and timescale for use of the grant. The grant has been given this year as Section 31 funding, whilst these grants are legally unringfenced and cannot be clawed back, the grants are often given for a specific use or purpose which is the case with this grant. However, under financial regulations, Section 31 grants require Cabinet Member approval to confirm how the grant will be spent and that it will be used only for the purpose for which it has been given.

4. Corporate implications

4.1 This grant will enable the installation of one of the largest PV Solar Panel systems on any of the Council's buildings during the construction of the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre. They will contribute significantly to the energy efficiency and sustainability of the centre and to the Council's priorities in relation to climate change and sustainability.

5. Local councillors & community boards consultation & views

5.1 Not applicable. The Chilterns Lifestyle Centre project was subject to considerable consultation throughout its development and design phase, and subsequently as part of the planning application process.

6. Communication, engagement & further consultation

6.1 There are regular updates provided on the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre project through a variety of communications channels.

7. Next steps and review

7.1 The PV Solar Panel will be installed at the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre.

8. Background papers

8.1 None

9. Your questions and views (for key decisions)

- 9.1 If you have any questions about the matters contained in this report please get in touch with the author of this report. If you have any views that you would like the cabinet member to consider please inform the democratic services team. This can be done by telephone [07827-553245] or email sue.drummond@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

