

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

REPORT ON: SOLAR CITIES SCOTLAND

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 179-2012

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Committee of the current funding situation facing Solar Cities Scotland.
- 1.2 Further to the informal advice from Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), Solar Cities Scotland (SCS) have been informed that they have been unsuccessful in their application bid for a further three years funding allocation from Scottish Governments Climate Challenge Fund to carry on with and build upon the two initial and successful projects being the Sustainable Energy Promotion Scheme Project (SEPS) as well as the Community Carbon Exchange Plan (CCX).
- 1.3 The impact of this is the potential loss of five employed staff by Solar Cities Scotland as current funding ceased on 31 March 2012. KSB notifications on bids had been anticipated in late January/early Feb so that organisations could advise and assist staff in the event of unsuccessful award. Notification was received on 12 March 2012.
- 1.4 A further funding bid has been submitted to KSB to be considered in early June 2012.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the award of funding up to £30,000 to enable SCS to continue to progress this further application, in conjunction with other funding applications and to ensure the annual conference can be delivered on 15 June 2012.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Board of Solar Cities Scotland have identified a required budget level of up to £30,000 to maintain 3 members of staff and support to deliver the Conference and pursue additional funding bids in parallel with the CCF bid.

The Board have identified a timescale 1 April to 30 June 2012.

- 3.2 The cost of providing this funding of £30,000 will be met from the City Council's General Contingency provision.
- 3.3 The SCS continue to seek other avenues of funding such as the Big Lottery Fund, Sustran, Esmee Fairbairn Trust etc and continue to widen and diversify its activities in the current sustainable environment market.

4 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Dundee City Council are represented on the board through Councillor Roberts and the City Architect (chair of SCS). The Council had previously part-funded the organisation prior to CCF awards.

- 4.2 SCS have a successful track record in climate challenge fund applications. In 2008-11 SCS received £370,000 for a three year project delivery programme. The largest award to date.

In 2011-12 SCS received a further funding allocation of £182,222 to continue on the work of the SEPS and CCX Projects.

The 2012-15 bid was for a further expansion of these projects out beyond the immediate Dundee area looking to assist other communities. The bid was for £150,000 per year for each of the three years.

Solar Cities Scotland have successfully delivered a number of key alternative energy renewable projects throughout these four years. They have engaged with a number of communities across Dundee and Tayside to promote community carbon capture as well as being able to procure and deliver on a number of technology improvement installations including building fabric insulation, solar thermal panel installation as well more recently as solar PV panel installation. In each of these three areas SCS have been able, through competitive procurement, to offer to householders a reduced installation rate from that of the general market level.

- 4.3 As a consequence of the success, SCS employed five staff in order to maintain the programme delivery for the various projects.

SCS operate a range of education based projects, working with schools and colleges to promote sustainable and alternative energies.

Through the success of the Dundee Sun City House, SCS have worked with SCARF, Carbon Trust and other similar bodies to promote alternative energy communities.

- 4.4 Keep Scotland Beautiful are the managing agents for the Climate Challenge Fund. They are based in Stirling and report to Scottish Government. They monitor project delivery against programme and process all monthly expenditure claims and payments.

- 4.5 They had offered guidance and advice on the initial draft bid document in Nov/Dec 2011. Informal feedback suggests the application was lacking community focus which is at odds with SCS objectives and which was the cornerstone of the two previous successful bids. A revised bid has been prepared and submitted. This is due for consideration in early June 2012.

- 4.6 The SCS Conference has continued to grow over the seven years of its existence and this 8th year was hoping to capitalise on all of the success both under the CCF banner as well of its general direction of work as SCS. The programmes have always looked to show the community, regional and national linkages from communities, through to regional and national opportunities. Staff resource is also required to deliver the Conference as well as progress other funding bid opportunities.

The SCS Board continues to develop and evolve a very strong management board. It continues to attract directors from across the four key sectoral areas of Education, Local Authority, private sector and industry. In addition one of its current board members also serves on the international Solar Congress and this has helped establish Solar Cities Scotland as a recognised player in the international scene.

5 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 This Report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

6 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Director of City Development, the Director of Corporate Services and Head of Democratic and Legal Services have been consulted and are in agreement with the contents of this report.

7 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

In view of the timescales involved this report was approved by Chief Executive in consultation with the Convener of the Policy and Resources Committee and spokespersons from the other political groups.

DAVID DORWARD		30 April 2012
Chief Executive		Date

KEN GUILD		30 April 2012
Convener of Policy and Resources		Date

KEVIN KEENAN		30 April 2012
Spokesperson for the Labour Group		Date

ROD WALLACE		30 April 2012
Spokesperson for the Conservative Group		Date

FRASER MACPHERSON		1 May 2012
Spokesperson for the Liberal Democratic Group		Date

David K Dorward
Chief Executive