



**SOUTH
KESTEVEN
DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

Officer Delegated Decision

20 December 2024

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive
and S151 Officer

Approve the purchase of battery-powered Grounds Maintenance equipment using the Climate Change Reserve

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to utilise £25,441.97 of South Kesteven District Council's (SKDC's) Climate Change Reserve to purchase battery-powered equipment which will support Grounds Maintenance operations.

Contact

Louise Case, Sustainability Project Support Officer

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Decision made by:	Richard Wyles – Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer
Decision:	To approve the purchase of battery-powered grounds maintenance equipment using the Climate Change Reserve.
Public or Exempt:	Public
Reasons for exemption:	N/A
Conflicts of interest:	No
Policy compliant:	Yes
Details of delegation:	The Council's Contract Procedure Rules allow for contracts with a total value of up to £200,000 to be approved by the Director.

1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

Finance

1.1 The financial implications are detailed within the main body of the report.

Completed by: Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and s151 Officer

Legal and Governance

1.2 The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer has the necessary delegated authority to take this decision via an Officer Delegated Decision notice.

Completed by: James Welbourn, Democratic Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer

Procurement

1.3 In line with the Council's contract procedure rules, three quotes were sought, and the contract to purchase will be compliantly placed with the offering of least cost.

1.4 This is for a one off, standalone purchase. Further spends may require a formal process based on aggregated spend on this requirement.

Completed by: Helen Baldwin, Procurement Lead

2. The Purpose of the Report

2.1 As set out in the Corporate Plan, it is the vision of the Council that South Kesteven is a thriving District to live in, work and visit. To maintain an environment that aligns with the priority of a sustainable South Kesteven, the Council's grounds maintenance team maintain many areas of public space, grass and shrub beds, communal places, trees and paths. This ensures that the District is always a safe, clean and pleasant place to visit.

2.2 The uptake of sustainable and responsible practices in grounds maintenance, especially in outdoor power equipment, is increasing rapidly as battery-powered tools offer greater efficiency and ease of use.

2.3 The Council has recently completed testing the viability of different battery-powered equipment for its operations. While many tools are still not suitable for SKDC's current operational needs due to performance limitations, there are several that have proven to be excellent and highly effective. These

include long and normal reach hedge trimmers, hand-held blowers and all associated components for charging and carrying by harness.

- 2.4 The listed tools have demonstrated brilliant performance in terms of efficiency, ease of use, and alignment with the Council’s sustainability goals. They have the potential to positively impact grounds maintenance operations while supporting the Council’s wider environmental objectives. The strategic move to battery-powered tools will lead to a reduction in fossil fuel use from diesel powered equipment. This will consequently reduce the greenhouse gas emissions linked to the routine operational activities of the Council.
- 2.5 The cost of the equipment, excluding VAT, is £21,032.00. In line with the Council’s contract procedure rules, three supplier quotes were sought, and the contract to purchase will be compliantly placed with the offering of least cost. In this case, Chandlers Farm Equipment will be the chosen supplier. The most appropriate resource to fund this initiative would be the Climate Change Reserve. This ODD seeks approval to purchase the equipment using this allocation.

	Cost excl. VAT
Chandlers Farm Equipment	£21,032.00
Bidder 1	£21,432.00
Bidder 2	£22,122.98

3. Available Options Considered

- 3.1 South Kesteven District Council could elect not to purchase battery-powered equipment.

4. Preferred Option

- 4.1 To use the Climate Change Reserve to purchase battery powered grounds maintenance equipment.

5. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 5.1 To use the most appropriate financial resource to support the operations of the Street Scene team, working in a healthier, efficient, and more environmentally conscious manner.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

Dated: **20 December 2024**