

Cllr. Daniel Schumann

Cambridgeshire County Councillor for Soham South and Haddenham

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17th January 2023

Dear Members of The Environment and Green Investment Committee

Re: Little Thetford Primary School Low Carbon Heating Project

As local member I am writing to express my full support for the Little Thetford CofE Primary School low carbon heating project to decarbonise the school's heating.

The Council's Climate Change & Environment Strategy sets an objective to achieve Net Zero for the county as a whole by 2045. Achieving the Council's target of net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2045 will require fully decarbonising heating in buildings. Capital funding the Little Thetford low carbon heating project would make a positive contribution to this objective, it will also raise awareness amongst parents and school neighbours of practical steps to address the challenge of climate change and provide an opportunity for the children at the school to learn about practical steps to address the climate challenge. Also, the condition report for Little Thetford Primary School identifies the existing oil tank bund as requiring urgent replacement and the oil tank is 25 years old, so this is the perfect time for action.

I am aware that the school will cease to be 'maintained' shortly and be academized; which raises the question of whether the Environment Fund capital contribution should still be made available for this project. However, I believe that not proceeding with the project would be perceived as the Council transferring a decarbonisation liability to a third party and would mean that the £96,530 PSDS grant funding would be lost, increasing the net cost of decarbonising the site's heating when this does occur, which would be counterproductive and a wasted opportunity for the county and the environment.

If capital funding is not provided the project will not proceed and PSDS grant funding must be spent by 31st March 2023, so to achieve this the school would need to be in contract for the works by the end of January. Therefore, I urge the committee to support this excellent project.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr. Daniel Schumann