

**SHREWSBURY TOWN COUNCIL
FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE
17 APRIL 2023**

Officer: Helen Ball – Town Clerk & Andy Watkin – Head of Resources

E-CARGO SCHEME

Purpose of Report

- (i) To update Committee on further discussions in relation to the conditional award of funding
- (ii) To consider a request from the Chairman of the Climate Change Committee to grant separate staff costs funding to the project

Introduction

Committee considered proposals from Shropshire Cycle Hub to develop an E-Cargo Cycle Scheme for Shrewsbury in December 2022. £27,500 being half the project value was sought from the Town Council for a 2 year period.

Whilst recognising the value of this scheme for the broader town benefit of developing active travel solutions, Members were conscious that funding was to be allocated from the Town Council's fund to achieve new zero carbon for the Council by 2030 and therefore any investment would have to show the carbon reduction which would be used as offsetting the Town Council's own carbon footprint.

The resolution of the Committee was:

That the Council allocates £13,000 for the purchase of 2 E-Cargo bikes on the understanding that the remainder of the project can be funded and there is a better understanding of likely CO2 savings from the scheme.

The Town Clerk & RFO have endeavoured to gain a better understanding of carbon savings and have continued to stress the need to find the extra funding for the £55,000 project to proceed.

Appended is the latest correspondence from Shropshire Cycle Hub which neither offers any update on seeking additional funds nor details, the potential carbon offsetting advantage to the Town Council, but more expresses their concern that the Town Council does not have a plan for the Town to have achieved carbon zero by 2030.

Additionally, the offer of £13,000 to fund e-cargo bikes was stressed, but Shropshire Cycle Hub requests that £3,000 of that offer is now used to fund staff costs.

Officers are aware of the wish of the Chairman of the Climate Change Committee to agree a separate budget for staffing costs. Shropshire Cycle Hub received £3000 to cover staff costs in February 2021.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Committee discuss the way forward for this offer given officers failed attempts in achieving a solution that meets the conditions of the funding award.