

**Item 11 - Question Time**Response to Mrs I McCallum

If you are suggesting that we have exaggerated the position, I would respond that it is quite the opposite. If anything, it understates the saving in the first year of funding through the Carbon CLEVER programme, £1 million of capital has been allocated on projects in addition to a further £26,000 on revenue funding. This has resulted in projects with a total value of over £3.2 million.

- This funding has been used for a wide range of innovative projects including:
- Spend to save LED street lighting, which will reduce the Council's energy bills, reduce carbon emissions, and provide better quality lighting;
- Establish the UHI Low Carbon Institute, which will become a source of academic excellence for the Highlands and Islands, and Scotland; and
- A range of projects to encourage and promote sustainable and active transport.

All capital projects have been agreed at Council or Resources Committee and when reported the contributions from other partners have been detailed. As reported external funding for these projects has come from a wide range of regional, national, and European funding sources, including the ERDF, HITRANS, Sustrans, CarPlus, UHI, Transport Scotland, Resource Efficient Scotland, and SSE. Many of these projects would not have proceeded without the additional funding from the Carbon CLEVER programme, or would have been of a reduced scale and impact.

The most recent report agreed at Resources Committee in February 2015 was for the localisation of the Carbon CLEVER Community Grant Fund. This £200,000 capital fund available to communities from 2015-16 will also attract other funding to bring forward local low carbon projects.

The Carbon CLEVER team will build on the success from year 1 and are strategically targeting a number of major funding opportunities for the Highlands, including:

- Being involved in four of the ten final bids to the £20million Local Energy Challenge Fund. This is through a consortium with Community Energy Scotland, HIE, and other Local Authorities. Results will be announced later this month.
- Working closely with HIE and other partners on the £100 million Low Carbon Transition Infrastructure Fund, and a number of other European Funding streams;
- Submitting a screening phase application to the UK Government's £35 million Go Ultra Low City scheme.