

INITIAL IDEAS APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL LOTTERY GRANT PROGRAMME ON COMMUNITY ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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Application by Transition Stroud (on behalf of Stroud District partners)

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INTRODUCTION

This initial ideas application is in two parts: first, the requested response to National Lottery (NL) questions; and second, the outline of our initial project ideas.

Please note that the response to the NL questions has been significantly updated and expanded, compared with our initial submission in September 2019.

PART 1: RESPONSE TO NL QUESTIONS

Q1: What and where is your organisation and community?

We want to know who you are and where your work is happening. How are the people in your community in the lead?

We are:

Our organisation is Transition Stroud (TS). We operate across the district of Stroud in Gloucestershire. We are a Not For Profit Company limited by guarantee (without Share Capital). We were incorporated in July 2009 “for the benefit of the community of Stroud District to take, and inspire others to take, collaborative actions that strengthen our local communities and respond positively to the challenges of Climate Change and declining energy supplies”.

TS is managed by a Board of Volunteer Directors, elected by members at our AGM. The Volunteer Directors are all local residents who bring a variety of experience and expertise to our work (including project development, community and stakeholder engagement, financial management and information technology).

TS has a mailing list of nearly 900 local supporters. It has a strong track record of enabling local people to come together in topic-based action groups. There are currently nine action groups, covering culture, energy, food, transport, and waste and resources, all contributing to achieving our shared aspiration for carbon neutrality by 2030.

As explained further below, TS has a priority programme of work to help establish and support community-based Climate Action Groups (CAGs).¹ As part of this programme, we convene a regular

¹ Community-based groups working to reduce local carbon footprints adopt a variety of names. Several groups have recently changed their names to use the word ‘Network’ (rather than ‘Group’) to reflect the importance of networking activity. For the purposes of this application, however, we use the generic term ‘Climate Action Group’.

Forum for representatives of local CAGs to enable the sharing of information, experience and learning, encourage collaborative working, and provide a firm link to Stroud District Council's Carbon Neutral Officer. Discussion at the CAG Forum informs and shapes TS's approach and programmes of work, including this initial ideas response.

Local CAGs are uniquely shaped in their own areas and neighbourhoods. Some are ward or parish-based, and others cover a number of parishes. Some are community-led, others are working groups of their Parish or Town Council with community involvement. Most groups have active participation from councillors at parish, town or district level, creating a useful link to local governance and community representation. Overall, 20 out of 52 parishes in the district are covered by the different forms of local CAG.

TS recognizes the importance of local CAGs retaining their own identity and community-based approach. We are seeking to facilitate a sharing of knowledge and resources in a way that is supportive, while retaining the 'bottom up' character of local groups.

Where we work:

Stroud District in Gloucestershire consists of part of the Cotswolds and the Vale of Berkeley and has a District Council commitment focused on achieving carbon neutrality by 2030. It has significant beauty in its rural areas, market towns and an agricultural and industrial heritage arising from a textile economy powered by water mills. It is also a modern industry base with data from 2016 evidencing manufacturing, construction and health as the top three employment sectors in the district. This economic mix holds great potential to engage with key elements of achieving carbon neutrality, including the need to: embed technologies in communities; address our existing building stock (including challenges of historic status and affordability); and promote wellbeing, clean air and healthier lifestyles as key benefits to low carbon living.

In common with many areas, Stroud District has both its affluent and financially stretched communities. It therefore offers opportunity to work with 'able to pay' households and a need to deliver benefits to those less able to do so. Its main town, Stroud, is well known for an ethically and environmentally minded culture and, across the district as a whole, there is a vibrant self-driven economy of entrepreneurs, micro businesses, community interest companies, charities and small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs).

Stroud is also the birth place of Extinction Rebellion and the Earth Protector Town (EPT) movement. These are two prominent examples of Stroud's eco-active groups. It is notable that Stroud Town Council has declared Stroud an Earth Protector Town, with a commitment to collaborate and cooperate widely to protect land, wildlife, air, soil and water.

The Berkeley Green University Technical College (UTC) is a specialist future focused careers college and Rednock Secondary School was rebuilt in 2010 as a pathfinder project to inform low carbon school building design. Stroud District is a frontrunner in developing an enthusiastic youth movement on climate change. Alongside active sustainable education initiatives, this gives great scope for engaging young people in our programmes of work. As an example, TS commissioned a young person to make a video, 'Seven Days to Change the World', to promote carbon reduction initiatives.

One of the six districts that make up the county of Gloucestershire, Stroud District has a long track record and growing reputation for leading on the environmental/climate change agenda. Last year

Stroud District Council was one of the first to assign budget and dedicated resource in the form of a Carbon Neutral Officer to support their commitment to achieve a Carbon Neutral District by 2030.

We believe that Stroud District offers a unique opportunity to demonstrate what funding for community-based action on climate change can achieve across an area with many dispersed towns and villages. This is important as much of the key reference work for initiatives and programmes sits in large urban areas or those with significant unitary powers. We believe that our district offers great potential as a model for learning and sharing success from an area of diverse geography and demographics.

How people in our communities are in the lead:

From a TS perspective, people in our communities are in the lead through involvement as TS Directors, in our topic-based action groups, and through the growing network of local CAGs.

More generally, it can be seen that Stroud District is a leading community for addressing climate change challenges: it has many community-led initiatives with a strong focus on environmental sustainability; a forward looking and collaborative District Council; the potential in its economic and education sectors; and the drive and ambition that lies behind our 2030 district-wide target.

Finally, as outlined below, we have achieved a significant level of collaboration in shaping our 'initial ideas'.

Q2: What does your partnership look like?

What organisations, sectors, groups and people have you been working with and speaking with about this fund? Have you worked together previously?

Who we have been working with:

TS has been working with the key groups and organisations below to develop initial ideas:

- **Local Climate Action Group Forum:** objectives of the Forum - to share information, experience and learning, and enable the development of joint initiatives and projects - are particularly relevant to this initial ideas application. The meetings of the Forum have been well attended, informative and productive, and led to TS convening a meeting of an initial partner group to develop bid ideas. The Forum has acted as a sounding board and feedback mechanism for shaping the ideas via discussion at meetings and e-mail feedback on drafting. The outcome of these processes - the outline of our initial project ideas – is included as the second part of this application.
- **Severn Wye Energy Agency (SWEA):** has a mission to provide practical expertise for more energy efficient and sustainable living, and has been delivering fuel poverty alleviation programmes and community energy initiatives since 1999. SWEA will be working with Stroud District Council on practical projects to deliver the aspiration of carbon neutrality across the District.
- **Stroud Valleys Project (SVP):** works with local community groups and volunteers on a wide range of environmental improvement projects, including local food growing, tree planting, and biodiversity, habitat and green space development. SVP is keen to support further development of practical local carbon projects, including potential carbon off-setting schemes.
- **Stroud District Council (SDC):** The District Council achieved carbon neutral status for its own operations in 2015 and has been a key instigator and funder for partnership programmes to provide support, advice and grant funding to both the domestic and SME sectors of the district.

These partnerships are founded upon collaborations with SWEA, a local installer network, the NHS and other local authorities. The Council also provide core funding to SVP to support its work around the district. Most recently, it has provided a grant to enable TS to contract a part-time CAG network support worker.

Who we are speaking with:

An initial meeting of bid partners - including representatives of TS, SDC, SWEA, SVP and local CAGs - agreed to develop a 'work plan' consortium approach to provide the basis for an effective multi-work package bid that is community-led and impactful.

The District Council are supporting this approach with bid and partnership development expertise and will advise on ways in which the work plan consortium approach could be developed, if our initial ideas lead to a more detailed discussion with the National Lottery programme.

Development of proposals would include strengthening links to a wider demographic and identifying ways of ensuring the effective co-development of robust and effective climate action frameworks. Early discussions have therefore taken place with Friends of the Earth and Ashden to explore the potential for co-creation of appropriate tools. We will ensure that any such collaborations are to the real benefit of our communities.

We have also had initial discussions with other local bodies that could play an important role in our work plan consortium, including Gloucestershire Rural Communities Council, Hawkwood College and Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership. Our County Council is also interested in engaging, particularly with a view to enabling the take up and roll-out of initiatives across the county.

If invited to proceed to full bid preparation, we will develop our work plan consortium approach in a way that puts local organisations and community groups with relevant expertise at the forefront of a range of 'work packages' to deliver community initiatives. We will also secure expertise and support via delivery partners and organisations who may work with us on the basis of shared agendas or as subcontractors to deliver work plan specific and specialised support. We plan to do all this in ways that builds our capacity to work sustainably into the future.

Q3: What have you been doing, to date, to take action on climate change?

Describe the work you have done so far, and the impact it has had. Describe your vision for climate change action in your community (now or in the future). What are you aiming to achieve? Do you have any results that you could share?

Our Vision and work so far:

Transition Stroud's vision is that by 2030 Stroud District will be carbon neutral and local communities will be resilient. This aligns with the district-wide target at Council level ('CN2030') and the aspirations of local CAGs. Our strategy outlines how we will make a contribution to realising the vision. It includes that by 2030:

- a wide range of vibrant climate action groups in local communities across the Stroud District are contributing significantly to sustaining carbon neutrality and community resilience; and
- there is widespread sharing of information, experience and learning between groups and projects that contribute to sustaining carbon neutrality and community resilience.

As a priority, TS recognises that working with groups that are rooted in their local communities will be critical to moving forward with a wide range of CN2030 initiatives - covering energy, transport,

agriculture, food, waste and environmental adaptation. We recognise the need for widespread, inclusive engagement in communities across the district to ensure achievement of the vision, and are confident that project partners are well placed to do this.

During 2019, TS has focused on encouraging and enabling local CAGs to form. We have worked with local stakeholders to organise a series of group 'start-up' workshops, including in Stroud Town (28 April), Dursley (8 September) and Berkeley (17 November). These workshops have been a great success, leading to the establishment of new groups in those areas. We are in active discussion with local stakeholders in other parts of the district about helping establish new groups. We are committed to expanding and developing this programme to ensure that groups are established across all parts of the district.

TS is also committed to liaising with and supporting groups as they establish and grow. As described above, this includes network development and the convening of the Local CAG Forum. A third meeting of the Forum will take place in early March 2020.

Through this programme of work, TS has developed a good knowledge and understanding of the wide range of activities being undertaken by local CAGs. In broad terms, these activities fall into five types:

- Promoting **behaviour change** - so local people reduce their carbon footprints
- Developing low carbon **community projects** – so local people get involved and work together
- Working with the local **Parish or Town Council** – so local councils play their part
- **Networking** across community, public and business sectors – so a wide range of local groups and organisations get involved
- **Working collaboratively** through the Local CAG Forum – enabling input and feedback to SDC to help shape district-wide initiatives and encourage their take-up

There are numerous local examples of activities within Stroud District (see, for example, [Nailsworth Climate Action Network](#)). We are establishing an on-line facility to map these activities. This provides a website that allows initiatives around carbon reduction to be captured digitally by groups running those initiatives and displayed on a geographical map. The project also aims to bring people together to learn from each other's carbon reduction initiatives. Phase 1 is nearing completion and will culminate in a 'map jam' event on 18 January (see registration details [here](#)). This event will enable representatives of local initiatives to enter their projects into the database and display them on-line.

If invited to proceed to full bid preparation, we will be able to evidence further progress, including our on-line database and map of initiatives.

The work of our partners:

SWEA: the charity has been working with all Gloucestershire local authorities since 1999, delivering affordable warmth programmes for people in fuel poverty or with specific health conditions. It provides energy efficiency advice, energy awareness training, grants for insulation and heating systems, home visits and community outreach work. SWEA also provides energy retrofit advice to 'able to pay' home-owners, as well as technical and financial guidance on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for SMEs and community groups.

SVP: SVP has been working in Stroud District for over 30 years. It works in partnership with a wide range of organisations in different sectors, including; environmental, educational, voluntary, local

government and health and social care. SVP is well established in the local community. It has Stroud town centre offices with a public facing eco shop, and 150 volunteers who work alongside project officers to deliver a wide range of environmental, community and educational projects, including the creation and restoration of green spaces, wild flower meadows, community orchards and ponds. SVP has just launched a new tree planting initiative to match native trees with appropriate land and volunteers to plant them.

SDC: the Council has been managing and reducing carbon on its own estates since the late 1990's and has ensured the provision of help and support to domestic and business communities to improve their energy efficiency. Its current draft Local Plan places the CN2030 target centre-stage, with an associated Strategic Objective, Core Policy, and Delivery Policies for renewable energy and decarbonising heat. The Council is also supporting the development of renewable energy schemes and projects on their tenanted offices and housing, as well as providing key partnership support to community organisations seeking funding for their ideas.

Overall, we believe that the work that has already taken place across the district provides strong foundations for moving forward should we be invited to develop full proposals.

Q4: Describe your collective goal or vision for taking action on climate change?

Describe your vision for your climate change action. What are you aiming to achieve and what does/will it look like in practice? How and why did you decide on this goal?

Our collective vision for taking further action is set out in our outline project ideas in the second part of this application.

The ultimate goal is transition to carbon neutrality across Stroud District by 2030. This means focussing on how we can use funding to strengthen our community-based approach and build capacity to achieve real impact. Our proposal is to use processes of co-design, co-production and experience sharing to develop frameworks, tools and services that will enable community-led action to substantively reduce our carbon footprint and increase capacity to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.

As described in response to Q2, we propose to build a consortium to deliver a 5 year work plan for the district. We see this as being composed of a number of key local delivery organisations and community-based groups, including our District Council, with a clear overarching objective to "broaden the reach and maximise the value and impact of our community spirit, expertise, innovation and enthusiasm for a Carbon Neutral District by 2030".

Our initial project ideas were developed through a collaborative process. Initial discussions in the CAG Forum in September 2019 led to the convening of a meeting of potential bid partners, preparation of an initial draft, and feedback from CAG Forum members and interested parties. This was followed by review and finalisation of the initial ideas bid in December.

Q5: Who do you feel is doing the best climate change action work?

Tell us about what you've seen elsewhere and who you're learning from.

As described above, locally we are learning from: the wide range of activities being undertaken by local CAGs; the programmes of work that SDC has undertaken to achieve carbon neutrality across the Council's own services; and the practical programmes that partners SWEA and SVP are working on.

Further afield, we are familiar with:

- the [resources hub](#) that Friends of the Earth has established
- the [Ashden co-benefits toolkit](#)
- the work of the [Centre for Alternative Technology on Zero Carbon Britain](#)
- the Centre for Sustainable Energy's new [climate emergency support programme](#)
- the partnership working on climate change action in other towns and cities (including, the [Leeds Climate Commission](#), the [Manchester Climate Change Partnership](#) and [Low Carbon Oxford](#))

All these sources provide good opportunity for learning.

Q6: How are you engaging with other communities?

Have you or others in your partnership worked with other communities and different places to take action on climate change?

TS is part of the [Transition Network](#), which facilitates the sharing of information and learning about working with a wide range of communities.

Our partner, SDC, is in discussion with Ashden and Friends of the Earth about the potential for collaboration to work with local groups to create tools and provide associated training.

SDC is well connected to GFirst, our Local Economic Partnership (LEP), which has shared ownership with the County Council of Gloucestershire's Sustainable Energy Strategy. SDC are advisors for implementation of this strategy. The LEP is also a potential source of funding for capital projects. SDC is in the process of developing a '[Growth Hub](#)' with the LEP, with aspirations for a low carbon focus in its business support. SDC is also connected to the SW Energy Hub, their Carbon Neutral Officer having worked there previously. The Energy Hub provides a useful network of expertise, funding advice and experience. In addition, SDC is co-lead with Lancaster City Council of a new Local Government Association Special Interest Group to promote local government initiatives on climate change.

SWEA operates across South West England and Wales, and has a wealth of experience in engaging with communities in these areas. It combines a strong technical capability in energy efficiency and renewable energy, with a place-based approach to community engagement to develop local sustainability initiatives. For example, SWEA's multi-year, Lottery-funded Rural Futures programme works in partnership with communities, public sector bodies and local organisations across Wales, using co-production techniques to develop new ways of delivering public services, more appropriate local policies and community initiatives to increase wellbeing, sustainability and economic activity. SWEA has a strong social mission which recognises that environmental sustainability cannot be achieved without societal sustainability. Consequently, it focuses its efforts to ensure that low income households and disadvantaged community groups are not left behind in the ongoing energy transition, and that their interests are included when planning and delivering the systemic changes needed to address climate change.

SVP is working in partnership with Parish and Town Councils and local CAGs to find land for biodiversity and tree planting projects and to recruit local volunteers. It also works in partnership with several Parish Councils to manage and maintain greenspaces for wildlife and communities through service level agreements where work is carried out by volunteer teams.

PART 2: OUTLINE OF INITIAL PROJECT IDEAS

Overview

The aspiration driving our ideas is for a speedy transition to a carbon neutral Stroud District. This is powered by a firm belief in the potential for wide reaching impacts and multiple benefits from low carbon living for everyone in our district. We are focused on how we can use funding to strengthen our community-based approach and build capacity to achieve real impact. Our proposal is to use processes of co-design, co-production and experience sharing to develop frameworks, tools and services that will enable community-led action to substantively reduce our carbon footprint and increase capacity to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. We want to build a consortium to deliver a 5 year work plan for the district. We see this as being composed of a number of key local delivery organisations and community-based groups, including our District Council, with a clear overarching objective to:

Broaden the reach and maximise the value and impact of our community spirit, expertise, innovation and, enthusiasm for a Carbon Neutral District by 2030.

Rationale

There are three key elements for the work plan to address: **reach, value and impact**.

Currently our **reach** is in its infancy. Across the district there are an ever increasing number of groups active on the climate, ecology and environment agendas, but more diverse representation from the different communities of Stroud District is needed. It is clear from the demographic at events and meetings that there is a need to increase the reach to be much broader and more socially inclusive in order to harness the capacity for the level of action required. The work plan will deploy the resource to ensure this reach.

We will work in partnership. Our consortium will include the District Council, which is important for wider community engagement and for strategic partnership working to enable wide reach across the district on the basis of shared agendas and mutual benefit. It will involve other key partners, including SWEA and SVP, with substantial experience of involving diverse communities.

If we address reach we will be some way towards maximising **value**, but broader engagement alone is not enough. Engagement must lead to action and therefore it is necessary that we develop our capacity through learning to support our communities in action that reduces carbon footprints. This work plan will therefore increase local capacity to create, deliver and sustain the local tools, services and projects that will support people across the district to live lower carbon lives.

Stroud District has a wealth of community and entrepreneurial spirit, it is a district whose economy is largely driven by micro, small and medium enterprises and it has a vibrant community sector invested in improving the district for all that live there. As such there are many initiatives at varying stages of development that provide great foundations for the further development of community-based initiatives and projects.

Overall it is important that our work plan has **impact**. Meeting the challenge of a carbon neutral 2030 target relies upon swift gains in those carbon reductions that can be accessed by individuals, groups and organisations within the mid-term range of a 5 year work plan. It also requires the rapid establishment of new ways of working and new services that will enable gains to continue towards

that longer term strategic goal of 2030. The work must have **high, lasting, impact**, which advances the achievements of a 5 year National Lottery investment to the 10 year target.

Impacts will be seen in a variety of ways across a 5 year work plan, including the amount of carbon saved/avoided, the number of people and communities engaged, and the capacity of local groups and organisations to deliver initiatives and projects. However, two components in particular are viewed as key to achieving impacts through the work plan.

The first is providing a basis for more coordinated action, recognising the need for a mechanism that helps the communities of our district to be literally ‘pulling together’, putting in diverse efforts that work to the consistent agendas and goals. The second is a basis for understanding our impacts and being able to deliver the work plan in an informed way, incorporating the ongoing lessons learned and enabling continuous review and improvement. We see the need for effective frameworks at district and parish levels that help give coherence to activity, appropriate targets and the basis for monitoring of impacts.

On a more practical level we understand the need for a secure approach to management of a work plan over 5 years and the responsibility to ensure attention to detail in accounting and budgetary management, reporting to funders and stakeholders.

Our Idea – A Working Title: ‘Stroud District: We’re Counting on Us (communities leading the carbon countdown to 2030)’

Overarching Objective and Aims:

At this stage these have been identified as:

Overarching objective: To broaden the reach and to maximise the value and impact of our community spirit, expertise, innovation and enthusiasm for a Carbon Neutral District by 2030.

Aims:

- To ensure that a diverse and inclusive community voice is actively shaping the district’s CN2030 agenda
- To ensure that community action has a solid foundation, shared direction and a basis for monitoring effectiveness
- To ensure community groups are well supported to establish and manage themselves effectively
- To develop and successfully implement a range of initiatives that establish new services for achieving low carbon communities
- To enable and support the development and delivery of a range of high-impact community-based projects
- To continually review, improve, share learning and promote replication of our work

Work Package Approach and Ideas

We have discussed what we would like to do and outline our ideas for a work package (WP) approach below. The intention is to address all six aims in an integrated way, building on the strong foundations outlined in Part 1 of this application.

In headline terms, our current WP ideas include:

- community-led network development and outreach (WP1)
- action planning, capacity building and co-development of services with community-based groups (WP2)
- enabling and supporting community-based projects on specific themes (WPs 3-4)
- funding and supporting community-based projects across various themes (WPs 5-6)
- work plan project management and evaluation (WP7)
- wider dissemination and roll-out (WP8)

We know that our ideas will require much greater and granular definition if a full proposal is developed. In that event, we would also expect our thinking to evolve through further discussion, particularly on the themes, scope and coverage of 'community initiative' WPs (3-6), which are presented here to provide a clear illustration of our current ideas. For example, preliminary discussion has taken place with Oakbrook Community Farm, which proposes to develop an exemplar pilot for carbon capture and regenerative farming. If invited to develop full proposals, we would engage further with such projects to identify appropriate forms and level of support in the context of our overall work plan approach.

We also anticipate that each WP would have an identified lead organisation responsible for coordinating the development of the package and how it will be delivered.

Our provisional WP ideas are:

WP1 - Community Voice

This package will expand our climate action networking and ensure it has a broad and inclusive outreach, across diverse communities, local bodies and businesses. It will ensure that the community voice is central to all the work plan activity. It will build on the TS work to support local CAGs, their Forum and the mapping of community projects, and will enable cohesive interaction between communities and the District Council through the development and maintenance of communication channels and new ways of Council working.

WP2 – Cohesive, Supportive, Collaborative

This package will develop a broadly shared vision and a framework for working that allows us to 'pull together' and monitor our impacts. It will enable communities to: co-design, develop, assess and monitor climate action plans; build capacity and develop expertise; and work effectively and collaboratively with the District Council, Town and Parish Councils. It will include collaboration and co-development of a range of services for communities, including workshops, advice, guidance and training, and will ensure that groups are well supported to manage themselves effectively and achieve impact.

WP3 - Community Initiative: Retrofit

This package will contribute to the development of a retrofit accelerator programme, building on local experience and enabling local CAGs to achieve penetration of the programme in local communities. TS has undertaken various retrofit initiatives, including open Eco Homes and a local domestic thermal imaging survey. SWEA has long experience of working with communities on retrofit programmes that include home surveys, advice and quality oversight of resulting work. In addition, various initiatives are under discussion in local CAGs, with local specialists and amongst partners. These include domestic energy awareness training, establishing a specialist retrofit social

enterprise, utilising waste material in retrofit work, and building capacity in the local supply chain. We would like to shape the most promising elements into this work package, which has potential for significant impact on our carbon footprint, for improving local homes, and to provide employment and skills for local people.

WP4 - Community Initiative: Right Tree, Right Place

A range of local tree planting projects are being undertaken by local CAGs, and our partner, SVP, has just launched a [tree planting initiative](#) to match native trees, appropriate land and volunteers to plant them. There is considerable scope to build on this experience and enthusiasm. This work package will develop, support and extend local tree planting schemes through collaboration between local community groups, SVP, the District Council and other local bodies, specialists and landowners. Our aspiration is to develop a strategy and programme to maximise scale-up and impact, embracing sequestration, re-wilding, and local biodiversity projects.

WP5 - Community Initiative: Contributing Where We Can

This package will focus on the 'able and willing to pay'. It could resource and support the delivery of community initiatives across a range of themes, including for example renewable energy (eg rooftop PV at scale), community transport (eg EV clubs), and carbon capture farming (eg Oakbrook Community Farm). It would also identify how we can use crowd funding and community investment schemes to support the work plan as a whole (including, as appropriate, consideration of business cases and delivery organisations).

WP6 - Community Initiative: CN2030 Cash for Communities

This package will develop a small grants programme or some form of competition (we will need to consider options when we look at budgeting) to enable community groups to access funding to develop their initiatives and projects – again across a wide range of potential themes. We anticipate that funding would be provided on the basis of appropriate integration with development of local climate action plans, viable business cases and/or quantified carbon-saved commitments. To work effectively, this work package is likely to develop a set of 'hand holding' services for concept development, applications and follow up support. This will ensure investments are as impactful as possible.

WP7: Administration, Coordination, Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

This package will enable the overall coordination of the work plan and consortium, including liaison with local CAGs and community organisations. It will also facilitate the ongoing review of climate action frameworks and plans (WP2) with and for communities. The package will ensure effective project management across work packages, including targets, timetables, finances, consortium capacity, communication processes, and plans for evaluation, feedback and monitoring. The District Council with its capacities for managing budgets and large scale project management is seen as a potential source of delivery for this package.

WP8: Dissemination and Wider Replication

All of our initial partners are committed to ensuring wide dissemination and replication of successful initiatives and projects. Gloucestershire County Council have expressed interest in being a partner with a view to recognising Stroud District as a pioneering lead, supporting the dissemination of

project outputs to other communities and the realisation of funds for replication across the county. This work package would facilitate this activity.