WRITTEN QUESTION TO THE MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT BY DEPUTY R.J. WARD OF ST. HELIER CENTRAL QUESTION SUBMITTED ON MONDAY 26th JUNE 2023 ANSWER TO BE TABLED ON MONDAY 3rd JULY 2023

Question

"Will the Minister state the current balance of the Carbon Neutral Fund and the total amount spent from the Fund since its establishment?"

Answer

The Climate Emergency Fund was set up in 2020^1 with seed funding of £5M and receives annual income from a proportion of fuel duty. The Carbon Neutral Roadmap² (CNR) proposed the full expenditure from the Fund on carbon reduction policies and was agreed by the States Assembly in 2022, so defining its full expenditure profile for the first 4 years of delivery (2022 – 2025). Prior to the agreement of the CNR, the Assembly agreed some areas of expenditure on sustainable transport and environmental protection and biodiversity initiatives in 2020 and 2021.

It is important to note that there is rollover of funds between years. Thus, whilst underspends represent a lack of policy delivery and of course benefits derived from them, the accumulation of funding means that as soon as agreed policies are launched, they remain fully funded and no overall budget is lost.

The current balance of the Climate Emergency Fund at 31 December 2022 was £9.29M and expenditure was £3.374M (table 1).

| CEF ACTUAL Cash balance | 2020 '000 | 2021 '000 | 2022 '000 |
|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| Opening balance (at the beinning of the year) | - | 6,184 | 6,694 |
| Income (actual) | 6,497 | 2,473 | 3,970 |
| Expenditure (actual) | - 313 | - 1,963 | - 1,378 |
| Closing balance (at the end of the year) | 6,184 | 6,694 | 9,286 |

Table 1: Climate Emergency Fund balance

Please note that due to challenges with the new finance system, it has not been possible to provide more up to date figures. Current 2023 figures should be available at the end of August.

¹ R Tackling the Climate Emergency Your Island Your Say HL.pdf (gov.je) ToR for the Fund are shown on page 19.

² Carbon Neutral Roadmap (gov.je)