



Report To: Cabinet
Lead Officer: Executive Director, Corporate Services

07 February 2018

Business Case for the Creation of a Green Energy Loan Fund

Purpose

1. To present Cabinet with a Business Case for the creation of a Green Energy Loan Fund, and to seek approval for further work to establish and launch the fund by mid-July 2018.
2. This is a key decision which was first published in the Forward Plan on 05th December 2017.

Recommendations

3. Cabinet is invited to:
 - (a) Review and endorse the business case for the creation of a Green Energy Loan Fund, and approve further work to establish and launch the fund by mid-July 2018.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Please see the main body of the business case for detailed reasons for the recommendations and all relevant considerations.

Implications

5. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, the following implications have been considered:-

Financial

6. The costs of setting up and running a loan scheme have been outlined within the main body of the business case, including the total size of the loan fund and indicative administrative costs. It is proposed that these costs would be funded from SCDC's Renewables Reserve, which is forecast to stand at approximately £1,565,000 following the transfer of 2017-18 retained business rates to the reserve at the end of the financial year (this forecast may be subject to changes through the remainder of the year).

Legal

7. SCDC would be required to employ an intermediary body to administer the loan in order for the scheme to be legally compliant.

Staffing

8. Staffing requirements have been detailed within the main body of the business case.

Risk Management

9. An initial risk analysis has taken place within the main body of the business case, including control measures.

Equality and Diversity

10. Assuming the approval of this business case, Equality Impact Assessments will be completed prior to the launch of the fund.

Climate Change

11. This business case has been developed as part of a package of measures that seeks to reinvest renewables business rates receipts into green energy projects, thereby reducing the district's contribution towards climate change.

Consultation responses

12. A number of teams and individuals have been involved in the development of these options. They include:

- (a) Cllr Simon Edwards, Finance and Staffing Portfolio Holder
- (b) Alex Colyer, Executive Director – Corporate Services
- (c) Mike Hill, Director – Health and Environmental Services
- (d) Gemma Barron, Head of Sustainable Communities and Wellbeing
- (e) Kirsty Human, Programme Manager - Partnerships
- (f) Suzy Brandes, Principal Accountant
- (g) Sean Missin, Procurement Officer

Effect on Strategic Aims

Living Well

13. Encouraging and facilitating South Cambridgeshire communities, businesses and individuals to reduce environmental impact and potentially achieve financial savings.

Connected Communities

14. Supporting South Cambridgeshire community groups to reduce energy costs, thereby increasing the funds available for other activities that help to support South Cambridgeshire's strong and thriving communities. Supporting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises to reduce energy costs, contributing to the promotion of South Cambridgeshire as a business friendly district.

An Innovative and Dynamic Organisation

15. The loan mechanism proposed within this business case would ensure that distribution of benefits from the Renewables Reserve to South Cambridgeshire communities is undertaken in a manner that maximises the sustainability of the scheme.

Report Authors: Kevin Ledger – Policy and Performance Officer
Telephone: (01954) 713018
kevin.ledger@scamb.gov.uk