

REPORT TO: Climate and Environment Advisory
Committee

4th February 2019

LEAD OFFICER: Executive Director, Corporate Services

SCDC INVESTMENT IN GREEN ENERGY - UPDATE

Purpose

1. This report provides the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee with an update on South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCDC) investment in Green Energy, including at the Waterbeach Depot and South Cambridgeshire Hall sites.

Recommendations

2. The Climate and Environment Advisory Committee is invited to:
 - (a) Note and comment on the SCDC green energy investment progress detailed within this report.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. The above recommendations are required to ensure that the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee is updated on progress towards SCDC green energy investment. It also provides an opportunity for the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee to comment on progress.

Background

Waterbeach Depot Solar Installation

4. At the meeting of 28th November 2018, a High Level Assessment (HLA) was presented to Climate and Environment Advisory Committee setting out the business case for the installation of a 30kW solar installation on the roof of the Waterbeach Depot.
5. Following this, a more detailed Investment Grade Proposal (IGP) document was provided by Bouygues. This outlined a reduction in the cost of installation to £39k from the £45k initially estimated at HLA stage, and as a result a shorter payback period of 7.68 years (compared with the 8.75 years outlined within the HLA).
6. This payback period is dependent on gaining an export grid connection, allowing the Council to benefit from the last of the feed-in-tariff, which ceases from 1st April 2019. Without the feed-in-tariff as an income stream, payback of the installation has been calculated at 11.17 years. At present, we are awaiting a decision from UK Power Networks with regard to the ability to connect to the grid – this is expected imminently.
7. An initial project mobilisation meeting was held on 24th January 2019, and work has been booked to commence on site on 15th February 2019. It is anticipated that the installation will take approximately 5 days to complete.

South Cambridgeshire Hall Site High Level Assessment

8. Bouygues have also been working on SCDC's behalf to complete a High Level Assessment for the South Cambridgeshire Hall site and locality. This will provide a comprehensive view of options, and is not restricted to a particular technology or a reliance on meeting feed-in-tariff deadlines to provide payback.

Street Lighting High Level Assessment

9. A meeting will be arranged in February to develop and agree a briefing document for the completion of an HLA in relation to SCDC's stock of footway lighting. The purpose of this HLA will be to examine ways in which added environmental value could be achieved by this stock, in addition to the existing planned work to upgrade the stock to LED (e.g. hosting of Electric Vehicle Charging Points and/or Air Quality Monitoring Stations etc.).

Officer Working Group

10. A report has been submitted to EMT on 30th January 2019 seeking approval for the creation of a Climate and Environment Officer Working Group. This will enable a structured approach to the investigation of future green energy investment opportunities. The decision regarding this and the appropriate terms of reference will be reported to the next Climate and Environment Working Advisory Group.

Implications

11. 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

12. This report is part of a wider piece of work to explore and implement options for the investment of funds from SCDC's Renewables Reserve. This reserve is fed from business rates that are retained in relation to renewables sites located within the district. To date approximately £2.7 million has been paid into the reserve with only a relatively small amount of this committed for spend. As things stand the Renewables Reserve will continue to be added to as we retain business rates relating to renewable energy sites for the current and future years.

Legal

13. SCDC have signed an agreement with Local Partnerships to gain access to and ensure compliance with the Re:fit framework terms. We have also now agreed call-off terms with Bouygues for the implementation of the Waterbeach Depot solar project and are now in the process of finalising works contracts.
14. Further works contracts will be required for any future projects such as the implementation of any measures for the South Cambridgeshire Hall site.

Staffing

15. It has been agreed that an Energy Investment Officer post will be created and recruited to in order to progress the Green Energy investment agenda, including work

under Re:fit and further options for direct investment in renewables. A job description and person specification is being developed for this role.

Risk Management

16. Risk registers will be completed for each Renewables Reserve investment project taken on.

Equality and Diversity

17. Equality Impact Assessment screening documents will be undertaken for each Renewables Reserve investment project so as to ascertain instances where a full Equality Impact Assessment is warranted.

Climate Change

18. This report has been developed to assess the options available to SCDC for the investment of Renewables Reserve funds in projects that will seek to deliver or contribute towards climate change reduction measures.

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