

**REPORT TO:** Climate and Environment Advisory  
Committee

25th March 2019

**LEAD OFFICER:** Executive Director, Corporate Services

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## **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's (SCDC) Green Energy Investment programme, including projects at the Waterbeach Depot and South Cambridgeshire Hall sites.
2. As part of this update, the recently completed High Level Assessment for the South Cambridgeshire Hall site has been included at **Appendix A**.

### **Recommendations**

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

### **Reasons for Recommendations**

4. 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***

5. At the Climate and Environment Advisory Committee (CEAC) meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> February 2019, it was reported that work had been booked to commence installation of a 30kW solar array on the roof of the Waterbeach Depot on the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019, following receipt and approval of High Level Assessment and Investment Grade Proposal documents. This work proceeded and was completed as planned, and handover of the installation is due to take place at a meeting scheduled for the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2019.

#### ***South Cambridgeshire Hall Site High Level Assessment***

6. Since the previous CEAC meeting, Bouygues have completed the High Level Assessment (HLA) that was commissioned to investigate options for energy investment at the South Cambridgeshire Hall site. A copy is attached at **Appendix A**.
7. The HLA provides a high level business case for the installation of seven energy conservation measures, as listed below:
  - Solar carport system
  - Ground Source Heat Pump

- Building Energy Management System (BEMS) renewal
  - Air Handling Unit fan upgrades
  - Chiller modifications and enhancements
  - Internal lighting upgrade to LED
  - Electric Vehicle chargers
8. The HLA outlines the **minimum expectations** for ensuing stages of the project and outlines a project capital cost of £1,311,068 for the above work, and a total payback period of 13.99 years.
  9. Following receipt of the HLA, EMT has provided approval to progress to the Investment Grade Proposal (IGP) stage of the project. This will provide a greater level of detail and the savings set out within this document will form the basis for the Savings Guarantee which exists under Re:fit. Under the Re:fit framework, Bouygues are incentivised to at least meet the payback and energy generation figures included within the HLA.
  10. The IGP stage will also provide an opportunity to further explore the inclusion of additional energy conservation measures within project scope. This could include, for example, battery storage and/or a wind turbine, both of which were considered at HLA, but excluded within the business case due to the requirement for additional investigation in order to clarify technical and commercial uncertainties that currently exist.

#### ***Street Lighting High Level Assessment***

11. Initial meetings have been held with Bouygues to discuss scope for a project to upgrade South Cambs Footway Lighting Stock to LED, and to explore the potential to use this stock for wider environmental benefits (e.g. by hosting Electric Vehicle Charging Points and/or Air Quality Monitoring Stations etc.). A briefing document for this project is currently under development.

#### ***Officer Working Group***

12. The first meeting of the Climate and Environment Officer Working Group took place on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019. This group has been established to ensure that knowledge is shared throughout the Council's services and to enable a structured approach to the investigation of future green energy investment opportunities.
13. At this first meeting, representatives from Bouygues delivered a presentation detailing their company history, the work that they have delivered in this country and region, plus key elements of the Re:fit framework. This allowed officers from across the Council to understand the opportunities that exist through the Re:fit framework and our partnership with Bouygues.
14. Following the presentation, a workshop took place to gather details of all existing and emerging Climate and Environment projects and partnerships that officers are aware of or involved in. This will be used at the next Officer Working Group (scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> May) to formulate a work plan for agreement.

#### ***Implications***

15. 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***

16. 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***

17. SCDC have signed an agreement with Local Partnerships to gain access to and ensure compliance with the Re:fit framework terms. We have also agreed call-off terms with Bouygues for the provision of energy services under the Re:fit framework.
18. Works contracts will be required for any future projects such as the implementation of any measures for the South Cambridgeshire Hall site.

### ***Staffing***

19. 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***

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

### ***Equality and Diversity***

21. 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***

22. This report has been developed to provide an update in relation to SCDC's green energy investment programme, which falls within the 'Being green to our core' Business Plan priority.

### **Report Authors:**

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