

CABINET

7th December 2011

SOLAR PANELS SCHEME AT THE DEPOT

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	√
Relevant Head of Service	Kevin Dicks, Chief Executive
Wards Affected	All Wards
Ward Councillor Consulted	N/A
Key Decision	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report informs the Cabinet of a decision taken on urgent business by the Chief Executive under his delegated powers with regard to the scheme for the installation of solar panels at the Depot.
- 2.2 Since the scheme for the installation of solar panels was approved by Members on 22nd June 2011, the Government announced changes to the feed-in tariff rate. It is proposed to reduce this rate from 34.1 pence to 15.2 pence. Full details are set out in the appended report.
- 2.3 The timeline for the scheme is to have the solar panels installed by March 2012. As the scheme is already underway and the changes to the feed-in tariff rates were announced by the Government at short notice, it was not feasible to wait until the meeting of the Cabinet on 7th December 2011 before obtaining approval to the changes to the rates and thus allowing officers to continue with the procurement and installation process. Feedback to the consultation was also required urgently to allow officers time to start preparing the Council's response, albeit that any comments from Cabinet members will be incorporated within the response following the Cabinet meeting on 7th December 2011.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **That the Cabinet note that the Chief Executive under his delegated powers to determine matters on urgent business agreed:**
- (a) **That authority be granted to the Climate Change Manager to respond to the Government consultation (*on proposed changes to the solar photo voltaic feed-in tariff scheme*), such response to include the comments of the Portfolio Holder and the Cabinet.**
- (b) **That officers be authorised to continue with the current project plan as approved by the Cabinet (*and Council*) on 22nd June 2011 taking into account the revised financial projections as**

noted at para 3 (*of the appended report*) and on the basis that the sum of £68,000 should remain the figure invested.

- 2.2 That the Cabinet consider any comments it wishes to be incorporated within the consultation response referred to in 2.1 (a) above.

3. **KEY ISSUES**

Financial Implications

- 3.1 As set out in the appended report.

Legal Implications

- 3.2 As set out in the appended report.

Service / Operational Implications

- 3.3 As set out in the appended report.
- 3.4 The authority for the Chief Executive to determine matters of such urgency that formal reporting to the Cabinet is not possible is contained within the Scheme of Delegations as set out in Part 3 (Part D) of the Council's Constitution. Such delegation must be exercised by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader, Section 151 Officer and the Monitoring Officer. The urgent action on this matter was determined by the Chief Executive on 14th November 2011 in consultation with the aforementioned persons.

Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 3.5 As set out in the appended report.

4. **RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 As set out in the appended report.

5. **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Report to the Chief Executive on Solar Panels – Government Consultation

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Record of urgent decision taken under delegated powers dated 14th November 2011

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