

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY]

Renewable Energy Strategy 9th July 2014

Report of Chief Officer (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the views of Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the decisions of Cabinet in following their consideration of the report attached.

This report is public

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That Overview and Scrutiny Committee provides its views on the decisions of Cabinet following their consideration of the report attached.**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The attached report and appendices were referred to Cabinet on 24th June, 2014

1.2 Cabinet's decisions were as follows-

- (1) That the Renewable Energy Strategy's overall aims and targets be agreed in principle.
- (2) That the Renewable Energy Strategy's Action Plan be agreed in principle.
- (3) That Cabinet confirms its preferences for renewable energy projects being biomass boilers, biomass supply chains, small scale solar farms and exploring the potential through partnership for a wind turbine at Middleton; and that consideration be given to the most advantageous way of delivering these projects.
- (4) That Cabinet confirms that delivery of the Renewable Energy Strategy is a priority and in view of this approves the proposed use of the Invest to Save Reserve (for the General Fund) and the Business Support Reserve (for Council Housing) to meet the costs of consultants and in-house provision, as necessary, to allow proposals to be developed and brought forward for consideration and final approval.

2.0 Details

2.1 Prior to consideration by Cabinet a detailed briefing on the report and wider renewable energy strategy was held, and all Elected Members were invited to attend.

2.2 Further to this the views of The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the decisions of Cabinet are sought. These views will be beneficial in the development of options that will be brought for further consideration

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Health & Safety, Equality & Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

As outlined within the attached report

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined within the attached report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

As outlined within the attached report

OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Human Resources:

NA

Information Services:

NA

Property:

NA

Open Spaces:

NA

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The s151 Officer has been consulted; she draws to Members' attention the Financial Implications included in the attached report. In particular, full appraisals (including prudence considerations) will need to be considered prior to any final investment decisions being taken. She reiterates the comment in 2.16 of the report, "that it is not realistic to expect that all [potential project] options could be taken forward, at least in the medium term, given all other competing demands and constraints on the Council's reducing resources"

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

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