

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 9th March, 2021 at 3.00 pm as a Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube

PRESENT: Councillors C Sampson (Chair), L Bambridge, C Bower, A Bubb, A Bullen, M de Whalley, A Kemp, J Kirk, J Lowe, S Squire and M Wilkinson.

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

Councillor S Dark – Portfolio Holder for Environment

PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34: Councillors I Devereux, A Holmes, J Rust and A Ryves

OFFICERS:

Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director

Stuart Ashworth – Assistant Director

Rob Wiseman – Energy Efficiency and Greenspace Officer

EC165: **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed them that the meeting was being streamed live on You Tube.

[To watch the recording of the meeting click here.](#)

EC166: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor S Collop

EC167: **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record.

EC168: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EC169: **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

EC170: MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34

Councillors Devereux, Holmes, Rust and Ryves for item EC172.

EC171: CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE

[Click here to view the recording of this item.](#)

The Chair informed the Panel that he had received information from Councillor Bullen on Urban Wildlife. The information is attached and it was noted that the item would be added to the Work Programme.

EC172: PUBLIC SECTOR DECARBONISATION SCHEME

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Assistant Director, Planning presented the report.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp congratulated those involved in the initiative and asked for clarification on the percentages of savings of carbon outputs across facilities. The Energy Efficiency and Greenspace Officer agreed to send the details to Councillors. With regard to surplus energy it was explained that it was more cost effective to use this on site, but there were options available to export it to the grid.

In response to questions from Councillor Bullen regarding Re:Fit and Ameresco and the Assistant Director outlined the procurement process and the framework agreements. It was also confirmed that some sub-contractors would be used.

Councillor Bubb commented that he hoped that British parts and local contractors were used where possible. He also asked about ongoing maintenance and it was confirmed that this was not covered by the grant funding.

Councillor Holmes addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He noted the short timescales involved and asked if the procurement of items would fit into this process. He also asked if Covid would have an impact on delivery. The Assistant Director explained that lots of work had been carried out to get the bid in and to move the project forward and the ordering of heat pumps etc would be considered.

Councillor Ryves addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He commented that the project would not make a massive difference to the Carbon output of the Borough and the Assistant Director explained

that savings should be realised after five years. It was also confirmed that the project was 100% funded by the Government and that all public services had the opportunity to bid for funding.

Councillor Kunes, the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change commended the project and the cumulative impact of these projects on the environment needed to be considered.

Councillor Bambridge commented that consideration needed to be given to the maintenance of air source heat pumps.

In response to a question from Councillor de Whalley regarding the Guildhall, the Assistant Director confirmed that careful consideration would be given to the Listed Building and meetings to take the project forward were being held. In response to a question regarding air and ground source heat pumps and underfloor heating the difference between the pumps were outlined by the Energy Efficiency and Greenspace Officer and how they worked with underfloor heating.

Councillor Dark, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Protection, congratulated the Council on the successful bid for grant funding and explained that the Council was taking a lead and the Council should be proud of delivering this project and others that could come forward in the future.

Councillor Rust addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. She raised concerns about the tight timescales to apply for the grant and the time allowed to spend the funding. She asked if the Local MP's could be lobbied to ask Government to give consideration to enable Councils to forward plan. She also referred to the contracts with Ameresco and if a review of the projects they have already carried out for the Council had been conducted. The Assistant Director referred to the Re:Fit programme and providers included within it.

Councillor Ryves addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34 and referred to overall carbon footprint of the Borough and the savings which would be achieved as part of this project. He didn't feel as if this project made significant savings, however it did send a message, and educating the public on carbon reduction was important. He also referred to car usage in the Borough, the transport policy, tree planting and carbon zero targets.

Councillor Kemp referred to car usage in the Borough and the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan and encouraging Council staff to walk and cycle to work. The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change explained that cycle paths and cycle ways were being looked at in development sites. He explained that a variety of measures were being looked at to reduce carbon.

RESOLVED: That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out below:

1. As the value of the required separate contract is above £500,000 for these extra grant funded works, that Cabinet approve the utilisation of our existing Re:Fit delivery partners, Ameresco, to deliver the project on behalf of the Council.
2. That Cabinet notes and endorses the utilisation of the grant awarded under the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, subject to the granting of any specific consents required for any of the buildings.

EC173: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

Councillor Bullen had swift boxes available for Members to use in their Ward if required.

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

EC174: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 20th April 2021.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm