

**INTERNAL MEMBER ADVISORY GROUP FOR GREEN PROJECT INVESTMENTS**

**To:** Environment and Sustainability Committee

**Meeting Date:** 25th June 2020

**From:** Steve Cox - Executive Director, Place and Economy

**Electoral division(s):** All

**Forward Plan ref:** Not applicable      **Key decision:** No

**Outcome:** To appoint Members to a cross party Internal Advisory Group to inform better decision making on Green Project Investments at Committee.

**Recommendation:** Committee is asked to:

- Note and comment on Appendix A: the Draft Terms of Reference for the Internal Advisory Group; and
- Nominate the proposed 5 cross party Members to the Internal Advisory Group based on the political makeup of the Council i.e. 3 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour Member.

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## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Climate Change and Environment Strategy includes a section on greening finance. This covers both how the Council uses its assets to develop and invest in green projects as well as developing new green finance mechanisms or business models which can be adopted and scaled to support the delivery of the Council's policy ambitions.
- 1.2 There are a number of work programmes running across the Council developing green projects and new business models. For example, the Energy Investment Unit runs community energy, schools and low carbon heating programmes, whilst other teams such as the Flood Risk and Biodiversity Team are working on new green finance initiatives for funding natural capital projects.
- 1.3 Appointing Members to an internal working group to steer the detail on green project investments during project development, will result in better, more informed decisions at Committee and improved outcomes.

## **2. MAIN ISSUES**

- 2.1 Developing green projects and new business models can be complex. For example, in May 2020, Commercial and Investment Committee supported the outline business case for the Swaffham Prior Community Heat Project and its further commercialisation. An Investment Grade Proposal will come forward to Environment and Sustainability Committee in October 2020 for a decision, but during the next three months business critical decisions on risk/reward will be made as part of the commercialisation of the project which would benefit from a Member steer.
- 2.2 It is recommended that a cross party, internal Advisory Group (based on the political makeup of the Council i.e. 3 Conservatives, 1 Liberal Democrat and 1 Labour Member) is set up to provide a steer on new ideas, concepts and projects and work through complex contractual discussions to build detailed understanding. This will inform and improve Council decision making in this new area of green projects and investments. The details of the proposed Terms of Reference can be found at Appendix A.

## **3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

### **3.1 A good quality of life for everyone**

There are no significant implications identified.

### **3.2 Thriving places for people to live**

As above.

### **3.3 The best start for Cambridgeshire's children**

As above.

### **3.4 Net zero carbon emissions for Cambridgeshire by 2050**

Green project investments and financing mechanisms will identify future carbon and other

environmental policy benefits and support the achievement of this corporate objective.

#### **4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS**

##### **4.1 Resource Implications**

The cross-party, internal Member Advisory group will need to dedicate time to meetings and reading some detailed documents to provide a steer. Officer time will be required to support members build their knowledge and understanding.

##### **4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications**

As set out in section 2 this will provide for better informed decision making on green project investments, new green finance mechanisms and their associated contracting arrangements. The Internal Member Advisory Group is not a decision making body but to provide a political steer through different stages of project development.

There are no procurement implications.

##### **4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications**

As above.

##### **4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications**

There are no significant implications identified.

##### **4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications**

There are no significant implications identified.

##### **4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement**

There are no significant implications identified.

##### **4.7 Public Health Implications**

There are no significant implications identified.

<b>Implications</b>	<b>Officer Clearance</b>
<b>Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?</b>	Yes Name of Financial Officer: Sarah Heywood
<b>Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the LGSS Head of Procurement?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Gus de Silva
<b>Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?</b>	Yes Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan
<b>Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Elsa Evans
<b>Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Eleanor Bell
<b>Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact?</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Emma Fitch
<b>Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health</b>	Yes Name of Officer: Iain Green

<b>Source Documents</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>The Council's approved Climate Change and Environment Strategy and Action Plan</b>	Link to Cambridgeshire County Council Full Council 19 <sup>th</sup> May 2020  <a href="https://tinyurl.com/yazhcd7j">https://tinyurl.com/yazhcd7j</a>

## Appendix A: Draft Terms of Reference

### Internal Member Advisory Group for Green Project Investments and new Finance Mechanisms V 0.1 DRAFT

#### 1.0 Purpose and role of the Group

- To build a deeper understanding of green project business cases and new finance mechanisms;
- To provide a steer on detailed negotiations on new green commercial contracts where risk/rewards need to be balanced; and
- To inform better decision making at Council meetings for complex green investment projects.

#### 2.0 Frequency of meetings:

Once every two months but additional meetings may be required if detailed discussions are required on any particular project.

#### 3.0 Details of the Advisory Group Members

It is proposed 5 members are appointed to the Advisory Group reflecting the political makeup of the Council (3:1:1, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats and Labour).

Please note: This group will not make investment decisions.

#### 4.0 Governance

