

Minutes of The Cabinet

**Monday 8 March 2021 at 4.30pm
Online Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillor Ali (Chair);
Councillors Allcock, Millard, Padda, Shaeen, Taylor,
Underhill.

In attendance: Councillors L Giles, E Giles, Moore and Preece.

Officers: David Stevens (Chief Executive), Rebecca Maher (Acting Section 151 Officer), Tammy Stokes (Interim Director – Regeneration and Growth), Surjit Tour (Director - Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer), Chris Ward (Director – Education, Skills and Employment), Katharine Willmette (Interim Director of Adult Social Care), Elaine Newsome (Service Manager – Democracy) and Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services Manager).

49/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillors Crompton, Singh and Rollins.

50/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.



51/21 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.

52/21 **Signing of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Grant Offer Letter**

Approval was sought for the Head of Finance and Acting Section 151 Officer to sign the Section 31 Grant Offer Letter for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS). The Scheme was approved by the Cabinet on 9 December 2020 (see Minute No. 112/20), however, further Cabinet authority was required as the grant value had been increased for additional requirements for electrical upgrades, the addition of solar PV and increased carbon reduction as outline designs had developed.

The use of solar PV would reduce electricity costs by £23,000 per year. This would offset potential increases in running costs from switching to electric heating and contribute towards paying back additional installation costs, in addition to providing net zero carbon electricity.

The application for PSDS was submitted in January, funding was offered to the council on 26th February 2021 at the sum of £2.573 million to install low carbon heating solutions in 5 Council buildings. The PSDS Grant offer would reduce the Property Maintenance Account funding source to £190,000. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy would be unable to accept documents and the grant offer would be revoked if Cabinet were unable to approve this report by 9th March.

Whilst Scrutiny Chairs were in support of the scheme, they expressed concerns at the short time frames in which this meeting had been set up and requested that in future, a briefing from officers or cabinet members should be undertaken with them.



Reason for Decision

If the Council were unable to accept the grant offer by 9 March, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) would not be able to process all documents in time and therefore would not accept the submitted documents and would remove the funding offer.

Alternative Options Considered

The alternative option would result in the Council not receiving funding to install more carbon intensive gas fired boilers. Projects would need to be cancelled and could result in a planning rejection or an increase in project costs making projects unviable. The grant value would then be recalculated, excess funds returned to BEIS and gas fired heating systems would most likely be used instead.

Agreed that approval be given to the Section 31 Grant Offer Letter for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS).

Meeting ended at 4:42pm

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