

Somerset West and Taunton Council

Executive – 18 January 2023

Wellington Depot Solar PV / Battery Storage – Capital Supplementary Budget Approval

This matter is the responsibility of Executive Councillor Dixie Darch

Report Author: Sue Tomlinson, Programme Manager for Climate Change

1 Executive Summary / Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 In line with the Council's financial regulations, this report seeks to confirm and regularise the capital budget required for the installation of Solar Panels and Battery Storage at the Wellington Depot. This project does not require any new funding or borrowing.
- 1.2 The capital costs for this project of £215k will be funded from the CNCR budget.
- 1.3 Executive approval is required as this represents a supplementary capital budget allocation and a revenue budget virement which total more than £150k.
- 1.4 This project will span financial years; therefore, revenue funds will need to be earmarked for capital financing costs falling into 2023/24.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Executive approve the supplementary capital budget allocation of £215k and the revenue budget virement that is required for the capital financing for this project.

3 Background and Full details of the Report

- 3.1 Somerset West and Taunton Council declared a climate emergency in February 2019 and adopted the Countywide Emergency Strategy in October 2020.
- 3.2 Building decarbonisation was identified as a priority area within the strategy and external consultants were commissioned to produce decarbonisation strategies for our main buildings, which included the Wellington Depot.
- 3.3 The decarbonisation strategy for the Wellington Depot identified a 115% reduction in annual energy consumption by installing solar panels on the building and estimated a payback of 3 years.
- 3.4 Following a recent procurement exercise, we now have confirmed costings to fully design, supply, install, test, commission and maintain a complete Solar PV system and

Battery Storage unit at the Wellington Depot.

- 3.5 The works contract will be based on the JCT Minor Works Contract with Contractors Design 2016 with standard 'Futures for Somerset' schedule of amendments.
- 3.6 The budget for this project has been reserved within the CNCR budget awaiting the outcome of the tender evaluations to seek the necessary approvals.

4 Links to Corporate Strategy

- 4.1 Building decarbonisation links directly to our corporate strategies and priorities.
- 4.2 Corporate priority 'Our Environment and Economy' - work towards making our District carbon neutral by 2030 - deliver projects based on a Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience Plan that work toward this goal.

5 Finance / Resource Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications, other than achieving compliance with the Council's financial regulations. There is no new funding or borrowing required.

Unitary Council Financial Implications and S24 Direction Implications

- 5.2 Based on the contract amount S24 direction does not apply and County Council consent is not required.

6 Climate, Ecology and Sustainability Implications

- 6.1 Building decarbonisation links directly to the Countywide Emergency Strategy and our own Carbon Neutrality and Climate Resilience action plan.

7 Asset Management Implications

- 7.1 The property decarbonisation and energy efficiency steering group overseen by the SCC Property Manager is fully aware and supportive of the project to install Solar PV and Battery Storage at the Wellington Depot.

Democratic Path:

- **Scrutiny – No**
- **Executive – Yes (18 January 2023)**
- **Full Council – No**

Reporting Frequency: Once only

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