


<p style="text-align: center;">Individual Mayoral Decision</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21 November 2022</p>	
Report of: Ann Sutcliffe, Corporate Director, Place	Classification: Unrestricted
PV Project - Renewable Energy Generation to Council Assets: Approval to spend carbon offset contributions to meet key energy and sustainability targets	

Lead Member	Councillor Kabir Hussain Cabinet Member for Environment and the Climate Emergency
Originating Officer(s)	Jonathan Taylor, Sustainable Development Team Leader
Wards affected	All wards
Key Decision?	No
Reason for Key Decision	This report has been reviewed as not meeting the Key Decision criteria.
Forward Plan Notice Published	17 November 2022
Exempt information	None
Strategic Plan Priority / Outcome	Strategic Plan Priority - A Clean and Green Future; Invest in Public Services

Executive Summary

The sustainable development team are proposing a £950,000 PV project to council building that will increase the amount of renewable energy the council generates and is fully funded through carbon offsetting contributions. The delivery of the proposed project will help to tackle energy use in the existing council building stock, increase renewable energy generation in the borough and offer support to meet the challenge of energy price rises. Upon delivery, the projects will reduce the operating costs through reducing the amount of purchased energy required to run the buildings.

Following appointment of a contractor through the GLA Retrofit Accelerator programme we will be able to undertake the investment grade proposals and produce detailed specification for delivery on to the sites. Where buildings are not deemed suitable for delivery of PV then alternative sites will be investigated. To assist in the accelerated delivery of the project LBTH have been successful in securing a GLA grant for (£45,000) technical services and project management support.

Recommendations:

The Mayor is recommended to:

1. Approve a budget of £950,000 for the delivery of this part of the PV project
2. Note the proposed route to market for the expenditure for the supplies and works via the GLA Re:FIT framework
3. Authorise the Corporate Director Place to enter into such agreements as are necessary to give effect to Recommendation 1

1 REASONS FOR THE DECISIONS

1.1 Key reasons for delivering renewable energy to LBTH buildings:

- Solar panelling (Photovoltaic) and green technology are key to the Mayor's Manifesto pledges.
- Energy crisis requires interventions to reduce purchased energy
- Climate crisis requires renewable energy generation to be delivered to produce clean electricity
- Costs savings for the council through reduced exposure to increases in energy market

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

2.1 No Alternative options proposed.

3 DETAILS OF THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Sustainable Development team secure funding through the Carbon Offsetting process to deliver carbon reduction projects across the Borough. This report relates to allocating the S106 carbon fund to deliver a Photovoltaic (PV) Council Asset Project (£950,000) through GLA retrofit accelerator programme and utilise additional funding if available.
- 3.2 The sustainable development team are proposing a £950,000 PV project to council building that will increase the amount of renewable energy the council generates and is fully funded through carbon offsetting contributions. The delivery of the proposed project will help to tackle the existing building and play a key role in working towards delivering a Carbon Neutral Council and responding to the Climate Emergency. The project offers support across the borough to meet the challenge of energy price rises and an urgent delivery timeframe is required.
- 3.3 This PV project was approved at Asset Management and Capital Delivery Board on 20th June 22. The carbon offset project is fully funded by carbon offsetting S106 contributions and is ring-fenced for carbon reduction projects. The intention was to continue process to Capital Strategy Board in July and then include the budget in the August cabinet report, but this was pulled in favour of a full capital programme refresh report to be presented at cabinet although the date for this is currently unknown.
- 3.4 It is important to continue delivery of the project to offer assistance to reduce energy requirements and reduce energy bills at this period of changing seasons and turbulent energy market.
- 3.5 The project to install Solar PV panels onto council offices and leisure centres is directly delivering a manifesto pledge to 'install green heating systems on our estates, including the use of solar panels'. The delivery of PV across our estates is a key action in delivering the councils carbon neutral aspirations and will have a significant financial benefit to the operating costs of the buildings through the on-site generation and use of renewable energy, instead of purchasing grid electricity.
- 3.6 There is a need for the support to be delivered at speed to ensure measures are in place and renewable electricity generation is prioritised before the current price caps come to an end in April 2023. The estimated cost savings for delivery of the Solar PV panels onto the identified buildings could be £300,000 per year from electricity generation (based on installation of 1,000kWp PV system). Through reducing energy requirements and reducing carbon emissions we will be demonstrating our commitment to becoming carbon neutral.
- 3.7 The Solar PV project is for £950,000 and to support this project, we are taking benefit of the GLAs Retrofit Accelerator Workplaces programme which provides a tendered and OJEU-compliant framework that is accessible to all

London Boroughs to use to procure energy retrofit projects such as the installation of Solar PV.

3.8 The initial desk top study has identified a number of potential sites for installation of PV panels. These include:

- Jack Dash House
- Shadwell Centre
- Toby Club
- Toby Lane Depot Soanes Centre
- St Georges Town Hall
- The Hub, Victoria Park
- Ron Cain Pavillion, Victoria Park
- John Orwell Leisure Centre
- Mile End Park Leisure Centre
- Whitechapel Sports Centre
- Chrisp Streepe Idea Store
- Cubitt Town Library

3.9 Following the appointment of a contractor through the Retrofit Accelerator programme we will be able to undertake the investment grade proposals and produce detailed specification for delivery on to the sites. Where buildings are not deemed suitable for delivery of PV then alternative sites will be investigated.

3.10 To assist in the accelerated delivery of the project LBTH have been successful in securing a GLA grant for technical services and project management support including:

- Project management
- Investment grade proposal / design review
- Commissioning and acceptance

3.11 The GLA grant is time limited, and our successful grant awarded in June 2022 for spend within 12 Months. To take advantage of the GLA grant it is important to progress the PV procurement process in early October 2022. A key element of the GLA support is technical support for the design review of the investment grade proposals, which is essential to ensure appropriate technical specification is presented for the roofs, and something we are unable to provide in house. If the project is delayed LBTH would need to find an extra £45k to access the same level of technical support and review that we have been awarded from the GLA. There are also potentially reputational implications if we are not able to take full advantage of the GLA grant, which could impact on our future applications for support and funding.

3.12 Key considerations for delivering the initial PV project for £950,000 are:

- Energy crisis requires interventions at speed with significant operational cost savings for delivery of the Solar PV panels onto the identified buildings

- GLA £45,000 grant is time limited - Successful grant award in June 2022 for spend within 12 Months.
- Key element of the GLA support is technical support for the design review of the installations
- GLA Support is specific requirement of procurement as LBTH must ensure appropriate technical specification is presented for the roofs, and something we are unable to provide in house.
- Project delay would result in loss of valuable free support (LBTH would need to find an extra £45k to access the same level of technical support and review to meet procurement requirements).

4 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no negative equalities implications for delivering renewable energy onto council owned buildings. The project will deliver carbon savings and minimise the impact of the council on climate change and this is positive for all groups.

5 OTHER STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In terms of the allocation of S106 funding, this project is aligned with the agreed Heads of Terms (HoT) for the Deed creating Planning Obligations and undertakings for the development sites that have given the council a financial contribution for carbon offsetting.
- 5.2 The carbon offsetting mechanism to secure funds is included within the adopted Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (2016) which identifies that where the policy requirement for carbon emission reductions cannot be met on-site, the 'Contributions will be placed in the carbon offsetting fund and will be used by the Council to reduce carbon dioxide emissions in projects elsewhere in the borough.' (SPD page 24, Environmental Sustainability Section).
- 5.3 The finances secured for carbon offsetting must be spent to deliver carbon reduction outcomes.

6 COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

- 6.1 This report is seeking approval for funding through the Carbon Offsetting process to deliver carbon reduction projects across the Borough. This report relates to allocating the S106 carbon fund to deliver a Photovoltaic (PV) Council Asset Project (£950,000) through GLA retrofit accelerator programme
- 6.2 This project is part of a wider program carbon reduction works totalling £3.7m and s106 funding has been ringfenced for its delivery. There is sufficient uncommitted s106 funding to deliver this project.

- 6.3 The Council has also secured additional GLA funding of £45k towards this work. This funding is time limited and failure to deliver the project will result in the funding being withdrawn and the Council having to find additional funds for the technical support required to deliver the projects.
- 6.4 Being s106 and GLA funded, there is no impact on General Fund budgetary provision.

7 COMMENTS OF LEGAL SERVICES

- 7.1 The Council has the legal power to perform the activities referred to in this report
- 7.2 The Council is legally obliged to obtain Best Value when delivering any of its legal functions. Use of a competitively tendered framework as referred to in this report will assist in achieving compliance with that duty
- 7.3 The Council is also required to ensure that the supplies and works have been subjected to an appropriate level of competition in compliance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and or the Council's Procurement procedures. A review of the way in which the suggested framework was set up will ensure that use of the framework complies with the Council's legal procurement obligations
-

Linked Reports, Appendices and Background Documents

Linked Report

- NONE.

Appendices

- NONE.

Background Documents – Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012

- NONE.

Officer contact details for documents:

None