

## STOCKPORT COUNCIL

### REPORT TO EXECUTIVE MEETING – SUMMARY SHEET

**Subject:** GM Unlocking Clean Energy – Stockport's Solar PV schemes

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**Report to Executive Meeting**

**Date: 28 June 2020**

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**Report of: (a)** Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration

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**Key Decision: (b) Y**

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Forward Plan  General Exception  Special Urgency  (Mark with a Y if applicable)

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**Summary:**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Stockport Council declared a climate emergency and pledged support for the Greater Manchester Five Year Environment Plan, including the target of becoming a carbon-neutral city region by 2038. Since then the Council's draft Climate Action Now (CAN) plan has been prepared and includes clean energy, and specifically solar PV (photovoltaic), as one of its key actions.

Within the ESIF programme (2014-2020) allocated to Greater Manchester, additional funds became available in 2019 to support clean energy generation technology. A coordinated approach to access this funding was encouraged by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

As an early response to the climate emergency through Climate Action Now and the ESIF funding opportunity, a number of clean energy generation opportunities were scoped in Stockport. Three have been selected to go forward as they fit the funding criteria, are high profile, and will act as early demonstrators by including the latest technology and optimising on-site power consumption. These projects form part of the all-party Climate Task Group draft report on Climate Action Now and are embedded in the draft plan.

Six Councils have joined a consortium, led by a not for profit organisation called Energy Systems Catapult. The Outline Business Case for the funding has been approved by MHCLG and a revised Full Business Case was submitted 14/02/2020.

Stockport's three solar PV projects are a combination of roof mounted solar arrays, solar car ports, battery storage and EV charging points for Endeavour House, Stockport Exchange new multi-storey carpark and the Merseyway Centre. Together the arrays will have a capacity of 720kW and save some 270 tons of CO2 p.a.

The combined value of investment is provided in the confidential appendix so that the procurement process can remain competitive. The estimated ESIF grant rate is conservatively c.42% with a Council contribution of up to 58%. Each scheme is designed to generate sufficient savings to off-set the Council's capital contribution over the borrowing period.

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**Comments/Views of the Executive Councillor: (c)**

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**Recommendation(s) of Executive Councillor: (d)**

- 6.1 That the contents of this report are noted.
- 6.2 That delegate authority is given to the Corporate Director for Place and the Borough Treasurer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economy & Regeneration, to:
- a) take all necessary steps to implement the strategy in this report, reporting back as necessary and appropriate to the Cabinet;
  - b) enter into contracts, procurement and funding agreements, as required, with Energy Systems Catapult and partner authorities within the GM Unlocking Clean Energy Consortium, in order to deliver Stockport's proposed projects; and
  - c) receive and administer European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) monies in respect of Stockport's Unlocking Clean Energy in Greater Manchester (UCEGM) projects.
- 6.3 That delegate authority is given to the Corporate Director for Place and the Borough Treasurer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resources, Commissioning & Governance, to source the necessary capital match funding to the ESIF.

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**Relevant Scrutiny Committee** (if decision called in): **(e)**  
Corporate, Resource Management & Governance

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**Background Papers** (if report for publication): **(f)**

Contact person for accessing  
background papers and discussing the report

**Officer:** Michael Fisher  
**Tel:** 07800 6182020

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**'Urgent Business': (g)**

**Yes/ No (Please circle)**

**Certification** (if applicable)

This report should be considered as 'urgent business' and the decision exempted from 'call-in' for the following reason(s):

The written consent of Councillor  
Officer/Corporate Director for Corporate and Support  
as 'urgent business' was obtained on  
decision is implemented.

and the Chief Executive/Monitoring  
Services for the decision to be treated  
/will be obtained before the

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