



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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STRATEGY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

3

9 July 2020

7.00 pm – 8.30 pm

Remote Meeting

Minutes

Membership

Councillor Doina Cornell (Chair)	P	Councillor Steve Robinson	P
Councillor Martin Whiteside (Vice-Chair)	P	Councillor Mattie Ross	P
Councillor Nigel Cooper	P	Councillor Tom Skinner	P
Councillor Stephen Davies	P	Councillor Chas Townley	P
Councillor Nick Hurst	P	Councillor Ken Tucker	P
Councillor Keith Pearson	P	Councillor Debbie Young	P
Councillor Simon Pickering	P		
P = Present A = Absent			

Officers in Attendance

Chief Executive	Head of Property Services
Interim Head of Legal Services & Monitoring Officer	Buildings Programmes Manager
Strategic Director of Resources	Corporate Policy and Governance Manager
	Democratic Services and Elections Officer

Other Member(s) in Attendance

Councillor Haydn Jones	Councillor Nigel Studdert-Kennedy
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Others in Attendance

Ian Mather, Withycombe Design Services, Consultant Mechanical Engineers

SRC.017

APOLOGIES

There were none.

SRC.018

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

SRC.019

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 June 2020 are approved as a correct record.

SRC.020**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were none.

SRC.021**WATER-SOURCE HEAT PUMPS – EBLEY MILL AND BRIMSCOMBE PORT MILL**

The Head of Property Services advised that the report presented the business case for the installation of water-source heat pumps at Brimscombe Port Mill and Ebley Mill, she advised that it was an opportune time to consider the move to renewable energy as the building that housed the existing boilers at Brimscombe Port Mill was due to be demolished as part of the redevelopment. She brought the Committees attention to the feasibility studies included in the Appendices and confirmed that these had been produced by Renewables First who had experience in this type of technology.

The Head of Property Services stated that the timing of these installations was critical in order to be able to take advantage of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) and secure the higher tariff rate by submitting an application ideally by September. She also confirmed that they had employed Withycombe Design Services to review both studies, a representative was also present at the meeting to answer any technical questions.

The Head of Property Services highlighted table 1 and 2 in the report which showed the financial impact that would occur if we were not able to meet the September deadline. She stated that although the investment wouldn't be paid back completely by the RHI tariff the renewable technology would have significant benefits in term of carbon reduction which had been summarised in the environmental implications section of the report. She also ran through the risks associated with the installations at Ebley Mill and Brimscombe Port which were set out in Section 6 of the report. She stated that other viable options were limited and these installations would complement the Councils commitment to CN2030

Councillor Hurst requested that the recommendations a. and b. in the decision box were considered and voted on separately. The Interim Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer confirmed that this would be acceptable.

In a response to a question from Councillor Cooper the Head of Property Services confirmed that because the boilers at Brimscombe Port were relatively new their initial thoughts were to relocate them on site however the Council were approached by Renewables First who suggested the option of water-source heat pumps.

Councillor Pearson asked whether there were any risks should there be a major reduction in the water source and whether there would be any effect on staff if the heating systems were being replaced over the winter. The Head of Property Services confirmed that the installations are subject to the Environment Agencies approval and they would take into consideration the risks around a reduction in water source. She also confirmed that ideally the work would be carried out during the summer months however although not a perfect solution staff are now able to work from home and they could do this whilst the installation is completed if needed. Councillor Pearson also raised concerns regarding spending this amount of money at such an uncertain time. The Strategic Director of Resources advised that the vast amount of the money would be funded by Government particularly at Brimscombe Port Mill, this would be a clear investment in the Councils' priority of carbon reduction.

Councillor Davies asked questions regarding the procurement process, the Head of Property Services confirmed that they had brought in Withycombe Design Services to

review and challenge the feasibility studies produced by Renewables First and stated that they would be following the Council's procurement process in terms of tendering for the work.

Councillor Hurst asked a question regarding risks of coolant leaching into the river and damage to the collectors. The Head of Property Services advised that environmental impacts were set out on page 38 and that it is not considered to be a hazardous substance, the representative from Withycombe Design Services also confirmed that an alarm would be built in which would provide an alert of any leakage.

In response to further questions, Officers and the representative from Withycombe Design Services confirmed the following:-

- Ebley Mill would require a replacement heating system even if there were to be a change of use for the building in the future.
- The boilers at Brimscombe Port could potentially be removed and installed elsewhere however this would be an additional cost.
- There is a greater than normal air ingress into both Brimscombe Port Mill and Ebley Mill and this has been considered, furthermore a study was being carried out to look into what could be done to improve the air leakage.
- Further studies were being carried out to look into ways of cooling the buildings particularly at Ebley Mill and the potential costs of this.
- Water-source heat pumps could be used as a learning opportunity by the Council.

The motion was proposed by Councillor Pickering and seconded by Councillor Whiteside.

Members debated the topic at length.

As proposed by Councillor Hurst a vote was taken on recommendation a. separately.

On being put to the vote, the Motion was carried with 12 votes for and 1 vote against recommendation a. and carried unanimously for recommendations b. and c.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL **To allocate capital funding in 2020/2021 to invest in water source heat pumps as follows;**

a. the sum of £1.05m at Ebley Mill and

b. the sum of £382k at Brimscombe Port Mill and

c. that, in consultation with the Leader, the Head of Property Services is given delegated authority to proceed with the procurement and installation of the heat pumps subject to the receipt of the necessary consents from the Environment Agency and a successful application to the Non-Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive Scheme.

SRC.022

MEMBER/OFFICER REPORTS

Performance Monitoring

There were no questions.

Investment and Development Panel

The Chair confirmed that a meeting had not taken place.

Leadership Gloucestershire Update

There were no questions.

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee (GEGJC)

There were no questions.

Gloucestershire Economic Growth Scrutiny Committee (GEGSC)

There were no questions.

Brimscombe Port Project Board

Councillor Pearson asked if any progress had been made with the planning application. Councillor Whiteside advised they were dependent on the Environment Agency and Highway responses which had been delayed, but they were hopeful that they would still be on track.

Corporate Delivery Plan Progress Update Quarter 4 and Appendix 1

There were no questions.

SRC.023

WORK PROGRAMME

The Strategic Director of Resources advised that there may need to be an extraordinary Strategy and Resources Committee the week commencing 20 July.

RESOLVED

To note the above updates to the Work Programme.

SRC.024

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

There were none.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Chair