

SPECIAL COMMITTEE

MONDAY, 15 FEBRUARY 2016

PRESENT:- Councillors David Renard (Chair), Junab Ali, Brian Ford, Jim Grant, Dale Heenan, Brian Mattock (Vice-Chair), Des Moffatt, Stan Pajak, Garry Perkins, Kevin Small and Russell Holland.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Fionuala Foley.

17. Declarations of Interest

The Chair reminded Members of the need to declare any known interests in any matters to be considered at the meeting.

18. Minutes

Resolved –That the minutes of the meeting held on 18th December 2015 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

19. Public Question Time

No public questions were asked under Standing Order 28.

20. Common Farm Solar Scheme and Thamesdown Transport Limited - Governance Arrangements

The Committee considered a joint report of the Leader of the Council and the Director of Law and Democratic Services regarding (a) the proposed governance arrangements for the Community Investment Company (CIC) to be utilised as an investment vehicle for the solar development on council-owned land at Common Farm, and (b) the appointment of Mr Michael Bawden as a Director of Thamesdown Transport Limited, following the resignation of Councillor Dale Heenan.

In relation to the governance arrangements of the Common Farm Solar CIC, members commented on the importance of ensuring and maintaining elected member involvement in the process. Accordingly, the Committee was of a view that whilst the proposed appointment of Council Officers as Directors were acceptable in the interim, this should be subject to the Cabinet Member being advised of Board decisions, and that it would wish to see elected members comprising the majority of those appointed as Directors of the CIC at the Annual Council meeting in May 2016.

Members also remarked on the precise role of the CIC and had some concerns that this investment vehicle might be utilised to promote investment in other schemes. The Committee was assured by the officers that the CIC, the subject of the report, would operate solely in relation to the proposed solar development on council-owned land at Common Farm.

Resolved – (1) That, the proposed governance arrangements for the Common Farm Solar Scheme Community Interest Company (CIC), as set out in the report to the Cabinet meeting held on 10th February 2016 (Appendix 1), be endorsed.

(2) That, at the Annual Council meeting on 20th May 2016, Council review the governance arrangements for the Common Farm Solar scheme CIC, with a view to nominating two members and one officer as Directors of the CIC.

(3) That, for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year, until Annual Council meeting on 20th May, 2016, the following Council officers be appointed as Directors of the CIC:

- Samantha Mowbray (Head of Head of Performance, People and Engagement)
- Patrick Weir (Head of Localities, Community Involvement and Volunteering)
- Paul Smith (Head of Technical Finance Resources - Finance).

(4) That the Cabinet Member for Communities and Strategic Planning be advised of Board decisions in relation to the orderly running of the Company and the maintenance of key contracts, for the period to the Annual Council Meeting on 20th May 2016.

(5) That it be noted that the CIC would be an investment vehicle solely for community ownership of solar power production facilities on council-owned land at Common Farm.

(6) That Stephen Taylor, the Council's Director of Law and Democratic Services, be authorised to act as the company secretary of the CIC.

(7) That the resignation of Councillor Dale Heenan as a Director of Thamesdown Transport Limited be noted and that Mr Michael Bawden be appointed as a Director of Thamesdown Transport Limited for the remainder of the 2015/16 Municipal Year.