

EXECUTIVE

19 MAY 2020

Present:

Councillors G Hook (Leader), Dewhirst (Deputy Leader), Connett, Jeffries (part of meeting), MacGregor, J Hook, Taylor and Wrigley

Members in Attendance:

Councillors Bullivant, Daws, Hocking and Purser

Officers in Attendance:

Phil Shears, Managing Director

Martin Flitcroft, The Chief Finance Officer & Head of Corporate Services

Lorraine Montgomery, Head of Operations

David Eaton, Environmental Protection Manager

William Elliott, Climate Change Officer

Sarah Selway, Democratic Services Team Leader & Deputy Monitoring Officer

Christopher Morgan, Trainee Democratic Services Officer

32. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10 March, 2020 were approved and signed as a correct record.

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

34. EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN

Member question and response attached.

Non-Executive Members asked what plans there were in place for the Council going forward to address the impact of COVID 19, and commented on the need for scrutiny of decision making and for the Council to be agile.

The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Resources clarified that the councils' future plans would need to take account of the impact of the loss of income as a result of COVID 19.

The Leader stated that the Forward Plan would be kept up to date and there would be involvement from all members.

Members thanked the Council's Officers for all their hard work during these difficult times.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.

35. ENERGY SUPPLY CONTRACT RENEWAL

Member's questions and responses attached.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Coastal Protection and Flooding presented the report to provide an overview of the options available for the supply of gas and electricity to Teignbridge District Council.

The Climate Change Officer outlined the options for renewing the energy deal and the reasons why the framework was being recommended.

The Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Coastal Protection and Flooding commented that nothing had changed with regards to the Council being Carbon Neutral by 2025. The work to date on this included discussing what lessons could be learnt from the lockdown and looking into reducing gas consumption at Forde House.

In response Members' questions, the Climate Change officer clarified that savings were based on a tariff provided for the Council's half hourly metered sites only and represented a snap-shot in time when the prices were provided. A cost saving of £8,000 yielded a saving of £32,000 over four years on electricity and a cost saving of £43,400 yielded a saving of £173,600 over four years on gas. The long-term savings on wholesale gas and electricity prices indicated a saving of 8% saving on electricity and 5% on gas over the past four years.

RESOLVED that the following be approved:-

- (1) Provide the Environmental Protection Manager, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder(s), the authority to renew the LASER energy framework covering the purchase of gas and electricity between 01/10/2020 and 30/09/2024 with the following additional conditions:
 1. That the proportion of renewable energy delivered through the framework is monitored and reported to Teignbridge Council on an annual basis;
 1. That we work with our contract partners to encourage LASER to commit to increasing the proportion of renewable energy over time, ahead of the national grid average proportion; and
 2. That at least 12 months before the end of this new contract, the council will fully review the energy supply market and report

through Overview and Scrutiny and the Executive on the most effective options for supporting renewable energy and decarbonising energy supply, to ensure we meet the District Council's carbon neutral commitments; and

- (2) Provide the Environmental Protection Manager with the authority to submit a letter of intent to participate in the Devon Energy Collective.

(The vote was unanimous – Cllr Nina Jefferies left the meeting before the vote was taken)

36. BAKERS PARK IMPROVEMENTS, NEWTON ABBOT

Member questions and response attached.

The Portfolio Holder for Sport, Recreation and Culture presented the report to request additional capital expenditure up to £225K, funded from Section 106 contributions for the Bakers Park improvements scheme.

In response to Members, the Portfolio Holder for Sport, Recreation and Culture clarified the position with regards the allocation of Section 106 monies for specific sporting projects and that there was no identifiable impact on short to medium term projects.

RESOLVED that additional capital expenditure up to £225K, funded from Section 106 contributions for the Bakers Park Improvements scheme be approved.

(The vote was unanimous)

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.09 am.

Chairman

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Members Questions
Executive 19 May 2020

Agenda Item 4 – Forward Plan**Cllr Phil Bullivant****Question**

Given the impact of Covid19 on the delivery of services and the serious loss of income to the council why does the Executive Forward plan fail to include any review of the council plans and why has the Executive not identified this as an issue requiring any special focus.

Response from the Leader

Thank you for the question. The effect of Covid19 on all of us is considerable and has had a significant impact on council services and finances. Officers and councillors continue to work on the implications for Teignbridge, but there continues to be significant uncertainty including whether the Government will, as promised, make good council finances.

We will continue to keep everyone updated on the evolving situation and a full report will be brought to council when the picture becomes clearer. The Executive Forward Plan will also be adjusted as required to reflect this.

Meanwhile, our thanks to everyone across the district for what they have done to support the community through the 'lockdown' including the NHS, Social Care staff, volunteers, Teignbridge CVS, Citizens Advice, Westbank Health and Community Care, our foodbanks and so many others. I particularly want to place on record our thanks and appreciation to all the Teignbridge staff and councillors for all they have done to keep services going or, accepted furloughing as services were closed or reduced. Their loyalty and commitment throughout this particularly demanding time is greatly appreciated.

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Members Questions
Executive 19 May 2020

Agenda Item 6 – Energy Supply Contract Renewal**Cllr Phil Bullivant****Question**

How much electricity does the Council generate through its own solar panels and how is this income reflected in the current cost model

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Climate Change

Solar PV systems installed on TDC properties have been connected “behind the meter.” This means that solar PV generation will offset or reduce energy consumption from the grid. This reduction in grid energy consumption is automatically accounted for within meter readings and is, therefore, accounted for within energy billing as a reduced consumption cost.

Feed in Tariff payments are dealt with separately to utility billing. Feed in Tariff payments are paid to TDC from British Gas on a £/kWh basis. The Feed in Tariff is paid to TDC for each unit of energy generated by solar PV, regardless of whether it is consumed on-site or exported to the grid. Feed-in-Tariff income is accounted for within the ongoing existing budget.

In summary, solar PV is estimated to have generated c. 102,300 kWh of energy in the financial year 19/20, which produced an income of c. £17,400 through the Feed-in-Tariff and export payments (this figure does not include reconciliation from previous years). Reduced grid energy consumption has also been reflected within meter readings and reduced utility billing costs.

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Members Questions
Executive 19 May 2020

Agenda Item 7 - Bakers Park Improvements Newton Abbot**Cllr Phil Bullivant****Question**

The proposed future contracts for gas show significant price increases. Market statistics show gas prices at a peak in 2018/19 with significant reductions in 2019/20 and ongoing prices lower than the 2018/19 peak for the next 4 years. How is this reflected in the current proposals Re Bakers Park improvements

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Sport, Recreation & Culture

Spot and Futures market prices rise and fall based on supply, demand and risk. The supply of the fuels is very different to the installation of the service and equipment, which is more likely to be fixed cost. The Pavilion will use gas for heating and water, and as such we expect the installation cost for the gas supply will not change. In terms of purchase of energy, it is anticipated that the Council will use the current energy supply framework and benefit from a purchase in advance model to guarantee value for money.

Question

What is the detail behind the increased 32% in costs of Bakers Park. Can this be shown by facility (details of original estimate, latest cost, change in specification causing increase etc.) The original estimates had a car park for a greater number of cars therefore the new, much smaller car park should be less expensive

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Sport, Recreation & Culture

There have been a number of specification changes compared to the original plan and allocation of funds under the last administration. Some of these have been down to internal influences; such as tree root mitigation, and some external influences; for instance the EA advice on flooding risk and also the taking into account of residents views on location of the building to minimise impact. Some of the cost is the result of tender submission being higher than expected – a trend not just confined to Teignbridge, as well as unforeseen difficulties with the existing tennis court sub-base and perimeter retaining features, poor ground conditions in the car park, as well as additional fees for professional consultancy and surveys.

In respect of the car park area reduction, some saving was made, but the underestimate of the cost of the tennis courts has exceeded this saving. The saving would have been higher, had the ground conditions on the smaller area specified not been quite so poor.

Question

Have alternative quotes been received from alternative qualified contractors.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Sport, Recreation & Culture

Both the civils and Pavilion contracts have been competitively tendered and evaluated in accordance with the Councils procurement rules. The civils contract was awarded and works are now nearing completion, the additional works required have used the tendered rates where available. Following the Executive approval for additional funding, the Pavilion building contract will be awarded to the best value tender which also offered lowest price. It is worth noting that average tender responses have been climbing across the country. Despite the lockdown, it is not anticipated that tender responses will become more competitive due in part to the hostile environment policy of Central Government resulting in the loss of construction staff back to Europe.

Question

The original plans for car parking were rejected by the executive. How much will now be generated through car parking charges to defray these increased costs and how will prices be set.

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Sport, Recreation & Culture

We are not currently planning on charging for parking at Bakers Park, this can be considered if necessary. The increased cost will be paid from planning Section 106 contributions. Your request for it to be charged will be passed to the car park review group for consideration.