

CORPORATE ENERGY UPDATE

Report of the Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report provides a further update to Members following the Corporate Energy update report presented to Place Scrutiny Committee on 10th January 2017 (BSS/16/20).

2. ENERGY STORAGE – Progress update

- 2.1. The grant funding agreement for the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) project, Zero Energy Building Catalyst (ZEBCat) was signed by DCC in March 2017. This project will seek to reduce the energy consumption of Great Moor House (a DCC Strategic Office) by 60% which could include the installation of additional roof solar PV and car park mounted solar PV with energy storage subject to detailed feasibility work. The Prior Information Notice has now been published to advise prospective tenders of our intention to launch the procurement for this project. It is intended that tender award would be early in 2018, with works being completed early in 2019.
- 2.2. DCC have also submitted an Outline Application to the ERDF for £1.5m of grant to support the Devon and Exeter Low-carbon Energy and Transport Technology Innovator (DELETTI) project. Part of the project would consider the installation of solar carports at park and ride sites, co-located with energy storage where viable. The project will also consider the use of electric vehicles for energy storage.
- 2.3. DCC are preparing to tender for the installation of solar PV on DCC buildings which could include PV with energy storage system options, with roll out commencing early in 2018. As part of the preparation for tender, site surveys are currently being carried out.
- 2.4. The Interreg Atlantic and Western Power Distribution Innovation Fund bids for energy storage projects submitted in October 2016 were unsuccessful.
- 2.5. DCC have conducted market research into the installation of large-scale energy storage to provide grid services but the grid connection fees are too high to make any business case viable. However, we are continuing are lobbying efforts and working with Western Power Distribution and the Heart of SW and Cornwall Local Enterprise Partnerships.
- 2.6. In the case of energy storage where grant funding can't be secured (for example at County Hall), and therefore there is greater reliance on income generation, Ofgem and the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy are currently reviewing these regulations and the outcome of this review will inform DCCs future strategy in this area.

3. ENERGY PERFORMANCE – Progress update

- 3.1. The council's total corporate property energy consumption¹ for the financial year 2016-2017 was 42% less (compared to 28% less in 2015/16) than in the financial year 2012-2013 (from the commencement of DCCs current Energy Policy). Street lighting energy consumption for the same period is now 15% less than the baseline. In financial terms, the Council's total corporate property energy spend reduced by approximately £500,000 between 2015/16 and 2016/17.
- 3.2. The corporate property energy reduction has been largely as a result of on-going property rationalisation as part of DCC's Estates Strategy including the disposal of energy intensive properties such as former Care Homes, as well as the introduction of energy efficiency measures (i.e. more efficient lighting and heating) in retained properties. The street lighting energy reduction is due to the ongoing programme of installing more efficient technology.
- 3.3. In 16-17, corporate property energy use per employee was 18% lower than in 2012-2013. This is a 10% improvement on 15-16 reported at the last meeting. We are therefore making good progress in achieving DCCs 17-18 target of 25% less corporate property energy use per employee.
- 3.4. DCC are awaiting transport and water supply and treatment energy data to calculate the 16-17 renewable energy performance data as a percentage of overall energy consumption. We can report that in 16-17 energy from renewable sources on corporate property increased from 133,399 kWh in the previous financial year to 275,624 kWh. This is primarily due to the installation of 100kWp of solar PV on Great Moor House.

4. PROGRESS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- 4.1. The Re-thinking Energy Demand project in collaboration with the University of Exeter to understand staff behaviours in terms of energy impact has completed focus group sessions with over 30 employees taking part. The feedback from the focus groups will be used to inform the research findings.
- 4.2. An Air Source Heat Pump has now been installed at Ryefields in Newton Abbot which will reduce running costs through more efficient generation of heat and income through the Renewable Heat Incentive.
- 4.3. DCC are exploring purchasing renewable electricity from Exeter's Energy for Waste Plant. DCC would purchase electricity from Viridor who run the Energy from Waste plant, to contribute towards the authority's energy renewable targets.

5. SUMMARY

- 5.1. Through the implementation of a number of energy efficiency measures, the continued reduction in DCC's property portfolio and a dedicated resource to focus on energy management, the Authority has made significant progress in this area and are able to continue to evidence both a reduction in consumption and resultant costs savings.

Rob Parkhouse
Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support

Electoral Divisions: All
Cabinet Members:

Councillor John Clatworthy, Cabinet Member for Resources and Asset Management

Councillor Roger Croad, Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972: LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

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Background Paper

Nil