

**To: Delegated Decisions of the Board Member, Corporate Governance and Strategic Partnerships**

**Date: 2 February 2012**

**Report of: Executive Director City Services**

**Title of Report: NON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF LOW CARBON HUB**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To propose the appointment of the Executive Director City Services as the Council's representative as a non Executive Director the Low Carbon Hub.

**Key decision? No**

**Executive lead member: Councillor John Tanner**

**Policy Framework: Cleaner, Greener Oxford**

**Recommendation(s): That the Executive Director City Services be appointed by the Council as its representative on the board of Low Carbon Hub as a non executive director.**

### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1a:** Articles of Association of The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

**Appendix 1b:** Memorandum of Association of The Low Carbon Hub C.I.C.

1. The Low Carbon Hub is a Community Interest Company (CIC) which has been formed to support and take forward community based action to both reduce energy consumption and thereby carbon footprint and generate energy from renewable sources. It builds on the experience of Low Carbon West Oxford and West Oxford Community Renewables in pooling individual actions into a coherent programme of local action at lower cost and risk. The aim of The Carbon Hub is to take the learning from these groups and bring them to scale at the Oxfordshire level.

2. The CIC recognising the support and leadership provided by the City Council to Low Carbon Oxford and all of the associated spin offs and links has

asked that the Council makes an appointment to serve as a non executive director on the board of the company.

3. The advantages of this approach are that the Council can seek to maximise the impact of The Low Carbon Hub in supporting and delivering its aims in respect of Low Carbon Oxford particularly potentially around the implementation of the Green Deal and the installation of renewable energy sources. The Council's nominee can also bring to the CIC expertise and experience in local government, programme management, governance, the communities of Oxford and their needs and associated policy aims such as diversity and equalities.

4. The disadvantages are that whilst acting in this capacity the Council's nominee must primarily act in the interests of the CIC rather than the Council. The Council and the CIC have recognised means of managing such conflicts of interest if they arose. However, as the aims of the CIC and the Council have strong alignment the potential for conflict at a non Executive level is minimal.

5. Following discussions with the Board Member for Cleaner Greener Oxford it is proposed that the Council's nominee in response to the request from the CIC is the Executive Director City Services who is the Council's director level lead for Cleaner Greener Oxford and Low Carbon Oxford. This is because the focus of the Low Carbon Hub is on delivery and relations with contractors and suppliers rather than policy and stakeholder engagement issues.

6. In terms of impact, there are no financial implications. The level of risk is low and should, in any event, be fully covered by the various insurances in place.

7. The impact of upon the environment and climate change of this appointment is low. However, the impact of the success of the Low Carbon Hub would contribute significantly to these matters in and around Oxford in a beneficial manner.

8. The impact upon equalities is low. However, through this appointment the council can seek to influence the operation of the Low Carbon Hub to ensure that issues of equality are recognised and addressed.

**Name and contact details of author:-**

Name Tim Sadler  
Job title Executive Director City Services  
Service Area / Department Chief Executives  
Tel: 01865 252101 e-mail: tsadler@oxford.gov.uk

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