

To: Cabinet
Date: 12 June 2024
Report of: Climate and Environment Panel
Title of Report: Framework for Installation of Renewable Technologies for Council Owned Properties

Summary and recommendations	
Purpose of report:	To present Panel of the Scrutiny Committee recommendations for Cabinet consideration and decision
Key decision:	Yes
Scrutiny Lead Member:	Councillor Emily Kerr, Panel Chair
Cabinet Member:	Councillor Linda Smith, Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities
	Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management
Corporate Priority:	Pursue a Zero Carbon Oxford; Support Thriving Communities
Policy Framework:	Council Strategy 2020-24; Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2023-2028
Recommendation(s): That the Cabinet states whether it agrees or disagrees with the recommendations in the body of this report	

Appendices	
Appendix A	Draft Cabinet response to Scrutiny recommendations

Introduction and overview

1. The Climate and Environment Panel met on 11 June 2024 to consider a report on the Framework for installation of renewable technologies for Council owned properties. The report, which is due for Cabinet consideration on 12 June 2024, recommends that Cabinet grants approval for the Council to establish a Renewable Technologies Framework under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (or successor legislation) for the installation of renewable technologies in Council owned properties and delegates authority to the Executive Director (Communities and People) to agree the final structure of the Framework, appoint successful suppliers

to all lots on the Framework and procure and award contracts over £1m procured through the Framework.

2. The Panel would like to thank Councillor Ed Turner (Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management), Juliet Nicholas (Energy & Sustainability Manager) and Tina Mould (Environmental Sustainability Lead) for attending the meeting to answer questions.

Summary and recommendations

3. Councillor Ed Turner, Deputy Leader (Statutory) and Cabinet Member for Finance and Asset Management introduced the report. The report sought Cabinet approval to establish a Framework for the provision and installation of renewable technologies to Council owned properties and relevant delegations of authority to the Executive Director (Communities and People). The establishment of a Framework was intended to enable the Council to procure in a more efficient manner in relation to provision and installation of renewable technologies in Council owned properties, while also ensuring that the procurement process remained open and transparent.
4. The Panel asked a range of questions, including questions relating to whether there was sufficient supply of providers to meet demand; whether local suppliers would be given additional weight within the procurement process; diversity and inclusion; whether establishment of the Framework would cause delay in projects already underway or committed to; whether the Framework's upper ceiling of £30m was accounted for in the Council's budget; how previous Panel recommendations had fed into the Framework proposal; and whether the Council was on track to achieve its target of getting 95% of its housing stock to an EPC C or above by 2030.
5. In particular, the Panel was interested to understand whether there was sufficient supply of providers to meet demand. The Panel was advised that there were providers within Oxford and nationally; the intention was that the Framework would go out to the open market to attract as many providers as possible. Assurance was provided that the renewable market was growing and so there was confidence that there would be enough interest from providers for the Framework. In response to further questions, the Panel was informed that the award criteria for the Framework had not yet been finalised; consideration could be given as to whether local suppliers should be afforded additional weight in the procurement process. The Panel was assured that requirements related to the Oxford Living Wage and social value would be included as standard.
6. The Panel discussed the need to ensure that 'green growth' was as inclusive as possible, both through the Framework and more broadly across the Council's procurement processes. While recognising that there were legal restrictions around how the Council's procurement processes were put into practice, the Panel was of the view that the Council should be aiming to actively encourage the submission of bids from suppliers who represented the local population, including suppliers with strong female and ethnic minority representation.

Recommendation 1: That, through the Framework and more broadly across the Council's procurement processes, the Council encourages the submission of bids from suppliers which are representative of the local population of Oxford, particularly those with strong female and ethnic minority representation, to ensure that 'green growth' is as inclusive as possible.

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