

CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL

Record of Executive Decision

Voltage Optimisation Guildhall Trial

Decision of: The Executive Councillor for Climate Change & Growth (*as an addition to the Capital Plan the Leaders approval was also required – see ‘comments’ section below*)

Reference: 10/Env/U1

Date of decision: 22.04.10 **Recorded on:** 22.04.10

Decision Type: Non Key

Matter for Decision: The installation of voltage optimisation equipment at Council sites to deliver energy, cost, and associated carbon dioxide savings. A total of 5 Council sites are potentially able to accommodate this equipment and all 5 sites are included within the tender process in 2 lots: lot 1 involving a Guildhall trial; and lot 2 covering Mandela House, Corn Exchange, Grand Arcade Annex car park, and combined supply to Parkside Pools, Kelsey Kerridge & Queen Anne car park, subject to successful trial results and further budget approval. Budget approval for lot 1 only at this stage amounting to £17,963. Budget approval for lot 2, potentially amounting to a further £111,404, will be sought at a future date depending on the results from the Guildhall trial, estimated to last 12 months.

Why the decision had to be made (and any alternative options): This project contributes towards delivering the Council’s MTO: “Promote Cambridge as a sustainable city, in particularly by reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the amount of waste going into landfill in the City and Sub-region”. Given the carbon reduction target for the Council to achieve by March 2011 and the ability for this project to proceed immediately, this decision has been taken before the next meeting to avoid any further delay and maximize the potential for achieving this target.

It was deemed not practical to convene a quorate meeting of Council to take these decisions, which were contrary to the budget already approved on 25 February 2010. The Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Committee was consulted and agreed that the decision was a matter of urgency.

The Executive Councillor’s decision(s):

- Recommend this capital scheme (which is not included in the Council’s Capital Plan) for approval by Council, subject to resources being available to fund the capital and revenue costs associated with the Scheme. The total capital cost of the trial project is £17,963, and it is proposed that this is funded from the Climate Change Fund. Revenue implications of the project include reduced electricity costs, estimated at £3,754 per year. The project includes an optional future commitment

of up to £111,404 depending on the results of the initial trial, and approval will be sought for this budget after the trial is completed and evaluated.

- Approve the completion of the procurement of the supply and installation of voltage optimisation equipment under an ESPO contract in 2 lots: lot 1 involving a Guildhall trial; and an optional lot 2 covering Mandela House, Corn Exchange, Grand Arcade Annex car park, and combined supply to Parkside Pools, Kelsey Kerridge & Queen Anne car park, subject to successful trial results and further budget approval. If the quotation or tender sum exceeds the estimated contract value by more than 15% the permission of the Executive Councillor and Director of Finance will be sought prior to proceeding.

Reasons for the decision:

As stated in Part 4C section 6.1 of the Councils Constitution, individual members of the Executive 'may take a decision which is contrary or not wholly in accordance with the budget approved by the full Council if the decision is a matter of urgency'.

Due to time pressures it was deemed not practical to convene a quorate meeting of Council to take these decisions, which were contrary to the budget already approved on 25 February 2010.

Scrutiny consideration:

The Chair and Spokespersons of the Scrutiny Committee were informed of the decision.

Report:

Attached

Conflicts of interest:

No conflicts of interest were declared by the Executive Councillor.

Comments:

As this scheme was not included in the Capital Plan as agreed at Council on 25 February 2010, the Leaders approval was required before this scheme could progress. Approval was received from the Leader on 19.04.10.