

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	<b>Switching to 100% Renewable Electricity</b>
<b>Date of decision:</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2019
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Energy & Active Travel Manager
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>Authority for delegated decision: Herefordshire Council's constitution - Scheme of Delegation Part 3 Functions Scheme, Section 7 Officer Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.7.6 Delegation to Chief Executive</li> <li>• 3.7.13 Sub delegation by Chief Executive to officers</li> </ul>
<b>Ward:</b>	All
<b>Consultation:</b>	None
<b>Decision made:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To switch the Council's electricity tariff to 100% renewable electricity.</li> </ul>
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019 Council passed a resolution that declared a climate emergency and asked the executive to consider, amongst other things: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ setting an aspirational target to become carbon neutral by 2030;</li> <li>○ and a proposal to change the Council's energy supply to 100% renewable source.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Whilst an executive response to the resolution is scheduled for consideration on or after 26<sup>th</sup> September 2019, as numerous other organisations are also making similar commitments the cost of switching to renewable electricity is increasing. This is because the availability of renewable energy in the market is decreasing.</li> <li>• The council's energy provider, West Mercia Energy, have recently secured very competitive prices for the council to switch its supply to 100% renewable energy, but this offer is time limited.</li> <li>• The proposed cost increase to the council's electricity cost is approximately £2,000 per annum, which represents less than 0.2% of the current electricity costs. This will be met within existing budgets.</li> <li>• West Mercia Energy have secured this rate for the period from October 2019 – March 2024.</li> <li>• Given the large associated CO2 savings, the very competitive price, the rising market prices and the contribution this makes towards the council becoming carbon neutral, this is considered to represent excellent value of money.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The additional costs of £2k/year can be met within the existing approved budget and continue to demonstrate value for money having been tested on the market.</li> <li>• Whilst not being the cheapest price, the additional environmental benefits which contribute to the council's commitment to achieve carbon neutrality, represents best value.</li> </ul>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>Not to switch to 100% renewable energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This would adversely affect our ability to meet the Council's aspirational target to become carbon neutral by 2030.</li> </ul>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	No declarations of interest.