



NOTICE OF MEETING

CABINET

TUESDAY, 5 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 1.00 PM

EXECUTIVE MEETING ROOM - THE GUILDHALL - FLOOR 3

Telephone enquiries to Joanne Wildsmith, Democratic Services Tel 9283 4057
Email: joanne.wildsmith@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

If any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting has access requirements, please notify the contact named above.

Membership

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (Chair)	
Councillor Steve Pitt (Vice-Chair)	
Councillor Dave Ashmore	Councillor Lynne Stagg
Councillor Suzy Horton	Councillor Matthew Winnington
Councillor Lee Hunt	Councillor Rob Wood
Councillor Darren Sanders	Councillor Tom Wood

(NB This Agenda should be retained for future reference with the minutes of this meeting.)

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Deputations by members of the public may be made on any item where a decision is going to be taken. The request should be made in writing to the contact officer (above) by 12 noon of the working day before the meeting, and must include the purpose of the deputation (for example, for or against the recommendations). Email requests are accepted.

AGENDA

- 1 **Apologies for Absence**
- 2 **Declarations of Interests**
- 3 **Record of Previous Decision Meeting - 8 October 2019** (Pages 5 - 10)

A copy of the record of the previous decisions taken at Cabinet on 8 October 2019 are attached.

RECOMMENDED that the record of previous decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting on 8 October 2019 be approved as a correct record.

- 4 **Home Energy and Water Efficiency Strategy** (Pages 11 - 46)

The purpose of the report by the Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services is to highlight the impact of cold and inefficient homes and high energy costs and to propose a draft strategy to achieve our vision:

To ensure all homes in Portsmouth use energy and water as efficiently as possible for an appropriate level of comfort, safety, health and dignity, so that no Portsmouth household has to worry whether they can afford their energy and water bills.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- (1) notes the successful work already taking place in Portsmouth to improve home energy and water efficiency, and reduce household bills.**
- (2) notes the contribution that this strategy can make towards achieving the council's goal of becoming carbon neutral, and increasing water efficiency to mitigate the impact of nitrate levels.**
- (3) approves the draft strategy for publication, and has the goal of working together with our residents and stakeholders in the city to ensure that everyone understands the help that is available and can meet their energy needs, to make Portsmouth a fairer, healthier and more prosperous city.**
- (4) asks officers to begin a two month period of consultation on the draft strategy, engaging with residents, stakeholders and partner organisations who can contribute to shaping and delivering the strategy.**
- (5) asks officers to lead on the development of a detailed action plan to achieve the strategic objectives, with timescales and measures to assess progress and drive improvement.**
- (6) asks officers to deliver a marketing and communication campaign around home energy and water efficiency that can engage residents in all demographic groups, across housing types and tenures, to inform and inspire them to take up the opportunities on offer.**

5 The Aquind Interconnector Project (Pages 47 - 52)

The purpose of the report by the Chief Executive is to update Cabinet on the Aquind project and to seek delegated authority to enable officers to respond in a timely manner to the Planning Inspectorate as they deal with the Aquind application for the granting of a Development Consent Order.

RECOMMENDED that Cabinet:

- (1) Note that Aquind have been engaging with PCC officers as they develop their application to the Planning Inspectorate and that they are due to submit their application by the end of October 2019.**
- (2) Consider whether they wish to change their position of objecting to the Aquind proposal.**

(3) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to make representations and to respond to queries and requests from Aquind and the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Council in a timely manner.

(4) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to agree access, rights or land acquisition proposals affecting the Council's land with Aquind if they are necessary to develop the infrastructure detailed in Aquind's DCO application.

(5) Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to make representations, and to respond to queries and requests from Aquind and the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Council in a timely manner in relation to land ownership matters.

(6) Delegate authority to the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth to make decisions on behalf of Portsmouth City Council during the DCO Examination that respond to issues raised by the Examining Authority that is considering the Aquind proposal.

6 Dates of Cabinet Meetings (for information)

The Cabinet is asked to note future scheduled dates for full Cabinet which are:

Tuesday 3 December 2019 at 2.30pm

Tuesday 4th February 2020 at 12 noon

Tuesday 10th March 2020 at 12 noon

Members of the public are permitted to use both audio visual recording devices and social media during this meeting, on the understanding that it neither disrupts the meeting nor records those stating explicitly that they do not wish to be recorded. Guidance on the use of devices at meetings open to the public is available on the Council's website and posters on the wall of the meeting's venue.

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This meeting is webcast (videoed), viewable via the Council's livestream account at <https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785>

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Agenda Item 3

CABINET

RECORD OF DECISIONS of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 8 October 2019 at 1.00 pm at the Guildhall, Portsmouth

Present

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE (in the Chair)

Councillors Dave Ashmore
Suzy Horton
Lee Hunt
Darren Sanders
Lynne Stagg
Matthew Winnington
Rob Wood
Tom Wood

101. Apologies for Absence (AI 1)

Councillor Steve Pitt, Deputy Leader, had sent his apologies for absence.

102. Declarations of Interests (AI 2)

For the item relating to Southsea Coastal Flood Defences Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson reported that he is a director of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) but is excluded from making decisions there on this issue, so had been advised by the City Solicitor that he could participate in the item at Cabinet. Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Resources, also attended Solent LEP meetings as an ex officio member and has also been excluded from any considerations by the Solent LEP relating to Southsea Coastal Flood Defences. He had also seen the letter from the Chair of Solent LEP to the Council's Chief Executive on this matter.

103. Records of Previous Decision Meetings - 23 August and 9 September 2019 (AI 3)

RESOLVED that the records of the previous decision meetings held on 23 August and 9 September 2019 be approved as correct records.

104. Leamington House and Horatia House - Update and Engagement Next Steps (AI 4)

Deputations are not minuted in full but can be viewed as part of the webcast record of the meeting:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/14063785/Full-Cabinet-08Oct2019>

A deputation was made by Connor D'Arcy, who supported the work taking place and the involvement of local residents who wanted to see the council housing replaced, with amenity space, parking and disabled access, and not student accommodation.

James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhoods and Building Services, presented this joint report with the Director of Regeneration. He thanked all involved in the successful engagement exercise with residents, especially Mary Devaney and Tim Raw. The recommendations gave the opportunity for the community to remain fully engaged in the process.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, welcomed the report and the intention to provide social housing for those who were not able to access private sector housing. There needed to be safe dismantling, due to proximity with other homes, and a responsible approach had been taken to deal with the issues of the concrete defects rather than sell on the blocks.

Councillor Sanders, as Cabinet Member for Housing, was pleased by the involvement of residents to shape the future development of social housing in Somerstown, and proposed an amendment to recommendation 5vii to read "*reprovide at least the amount of social housing...*", which was supported.

Councillors Rob Wood and Tom Wood, also spoke as ward councillors praising the resident participation and looking forward to seeing the results take shape.

DECISIONS - The Cabinet:

- (1) Noted the progress of the decommissioning and securing of the blocks**
- (2) Noted the appointment of Ridge & Partners LLP consultants and the progress to provide a detailed options appraisal for the demolition method, costs and timescales to demolish the two tower blocks**
- (3) Noted all the engagement feedback results**
- (4) Noted the communication plan to release and publish the engagement feedback results**
- (5) Agreed to use all the engagement feedback results as the basis of the design brief for the master planning work and adopts the following seven key principles emerging from the feedback:**
 - i) Build appropriate homes.**
 - ii) Make better use of green space and space for children.**
 - iii) No more student accommodation.**
 - iv) Consider wider area improvements.**
 - v) Better parking options.**
 - vi) No tower blocks.**
 - vii) Re-provide at least the amount of social housing lost when the tower blocks go**
- (6) Delegated to Director of Regeneration in consultation with the Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services to procure from a multi-disciplinary team the first stage specialists required to prepare the master planning options studies**
- (7) Noted the positive discussions with Homes England**

105. Southsea Coastal Flood Defence amendment to Capital Programme (AI 5)

David Williams, Chief Executive, addressed the letter received from the Chair of the Solent Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The LEP and the Council had been involved in discussions on the Southsea Flood Defences since 2015, but no commitment to funding had yet been secured. In order for the Full Business Case to be submitted, the Environment Agency and the Treasury required confirmation that the other funding sources are confirmed. This presents a conundrum that requires some flexibility. He felt that progress had been made with Solent LEP on a number of issues. The Chair of the Environment Agency had written to the LEP to request the LEP to prioritise the scheme emphasising the need to protect the city's resilience and economy. There were still hurdles to overcome, given the LEP's grant criteria, such as clearing all reserved matters in the submitted planning application before any grant is agreed. David Williams would respond directly to Gary Jeffries, Chair of the Solent LEP, and would seek to agree phrasing more acceptable to the LEP and continue to seek their contribution to the scheme.

Councillor Ashmore, Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, stressed that these works were vital for the protection of the city's historic seafront and thanked those involved in the consultation projects. Councillor Vernon-Jackson, Councillor Stagg and Councillor Winnington all echoed the importance of these works and the danger of rising sea levels. The barriers presented by the various grant regimes needed to be removed by central government agencies, and they asked that the Solent LEP work flexibly with the Council in this process to ensure the economic wellbeing of the local communities.

RECOMMENDED to Council that:

(1) In order to close the existing funding gap, the Council approve an amendment to the Capital Programme and increase the total Southsea Coastal Flood Defence budget to £131m to be funded by additional Environment Agency Grant of £24m and, if required, Corporate Capital Resources of £17m.

(2) That delegated responsibility be given to the Director of Regeneration and the S.151 Officer to investigate alternative funding sources between now and when this additional funding in recommendation 1 is actually required in order to mitigate the potential reduction in the Corporate Capital Resources available for future Capital Investment elsewhere across the City should the £17m be required and to amend the Capital Programme as necessary.

106. Revenue Budget Monitoring 2019/20 Quarter 1 to end June 2019 (AI 6)

Chris Ward, Director of Finance and Resources, presented his report and clarified that this did not require Council approval. The report reflected the position to the end of June 2019 and he updated the position which has since benefitted from the government's Spending Review announcement, which

gave additional funding for both Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care, which included the flexibility to increase Council Tax by an additional 2% and passport that increase directly to Adult Social Care (i.e. a further 2% Council Tax increase above the general limit for all other Council Services of 2%). Should the Council elect to take this Council Tax flexibility alongside the additional funding announced, it would stabilise the financial position for both Adults and Children's Social Care so long as this funding continues in future years.

In response to a question from Councillor Rob Wood, Chris Ward reported further on the opportunities to achieve savings for Southsea Sea Defences which included a £17m risk pot, circa £20m of potential value engineering savings and the opportunity to manage costs at each stage through a 6 stage procurement process.

DECISIONS -

i) The forecast outturn position for 2019/20 was noted:

(a) An overspend of £2,725,000 before further forecast transfers from/(to) Portfolio Specific Reserves & Ring Fenced Public Health Reserve

(b) An overspend of £2,474,800 after further forecast transfers from/(to) Portfolio Specific Reserves & Ring Fenced Public Health Reserve.

(ii) Cabinet Members noted that any actual overspend at year end will in the first instance be deducted from any Portfolio Specific Reserve balance and once depleted then be deducted from the 2020/21 Cash Limit.

(iii) Cabinet Members noted that the overall financial forecast for Quarter 1 for the whole Council is a serious cause for concern with significant forecast overspends in the highest spending areas of Children's and Adult Social Care which in aggregate amount to £4,034,100 and the extent to which this cannot be remedied in the medium term will add to the Council's £2.5m per annum savings requirements for future years.

(iv) Directors, in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet Member, consider options that seek to minimise any forecast overspend presently being reported and prepare strategies outlining how any consequent reduction to the 2020/21 Portfolio cash limit will be managed to avoid further overspending during 2020/21.

At the end of the meeting Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson, as Leader, reported that there had been the possibility of a supplementary item being added to this meeting's agenda regarding purchase of a crane to be leased to Portico, but to give more time this was going to his Leader's portfolio decision meeting on 11 October instead.

The meeting concluded at 1.40 pm.

Councillor Gerald Vernon-Jackson CBE
Leader of the Council

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Agenda Item 4

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Full Cabinet

Date of meeting: 5th November 2019

Subject: Home energy and water efficiency strategy

Report by: James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to highlight the impact of cold and inefficient homes and high energy costs, and to propose a draft strategy to achieve our vision: To ensure all homes in Portsmouth use energy and water as efficiently as possible for an appropriate level of comfort, safety, health and dignity, so that no Portsmouth household has to worry whether they can afford their energy and water bills.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. That Cabinet notes the successful work already taking place in Portsmouth to improve home energy and water efficiency, and reduce household bills.
- 2.2. That Cabinet notes the contribution that this strategy can make towards achieving the council's goal of becoming carbon neutral, and increasing water efficiency to mitigate the impact of nitrate levels.
- 2.3. That the Cabinet approves the draft strategy for publication, and has the goal of working together with our residents and stakeholders in the city to ensure that everyone understands the help that is available and can meet their energy needs, to make Portsmouth a fairer, healthier and more prosperous city.
- 2.4. That Cabinet asks officers to begin a two month period of consultation on the draft strategy, engaging with residents, stakeholders and partner organisations who can contribute to shaping and delivering the strategy.
- 2.5. That Cabinet asks officers to lead on the development of a detailed action plan to achieve the strategic objectives, with timescales and measures to assess progress and drive improvement.
- 2.6. That Cabinet asks officers to deliver a marketing and communication campaign around home energy and water efficiency that can engage residents in all demographic groups, across housing types and tenures, to inform and inspire them to take up the opportunities on offer

3. Background

- 3.1. The amount of energy and water used by a household depends on the age, construction and condition of their home, the efficiency of the appliances in it, the cost of energy, and the income they have available. Access to energy and water is essential to achieve an appropriate level of comfort, safety, health and dignity. Too many residents are living in homes that are cold, or spending too much of their income in order to meet these basic needs.
- 3.2. Using the government's Low Income High Costs indicator, over 11,000 households in Portsmouth (12.1%) are estimated to be in fuel poverty¹. This is higher than the average for England of 10.9%.
- 3.3. Every year there are around 125 more deaths in Portsmouth during the coldest four months of the year compared to the average of the rest of the year². An estimated 30% of these deaths are attributable to the avoidable circumstances of living in cold homes³.
- 3.4. It is estimated that over 18,000 homes in Portsmouth would only achieve an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E, F or G. The inefficiency of these homes leads to high bills, and unnecessary carbon emissions.
- 3.5. Average annual home electricity bills rose by 5.6% in 2017, 9.1% in 2018, and are predicted to rise further, taking up an increasing proportion of household income. While home gas prices have reduced from a peak in 2014, in real terms gas prices have increased over the last 10 years⁴.
- 3.6. The council is taking action to mitigate the damage being caused by high levels of water-borne nitrates to ecologically significant sites in the Solent. Although around 80% of nitrates in the Solent stem from farming, household wastewater also contains nitrates, and therefore any reduction in water demand contributes to mitigating the damage in the Solent.
- 3.7. The council's energy services team includes officers who are expert in domestic energy efficiency and who are dedicated to administering schemes focussed on tackling fuel poverty. Their work helps to attract external funding to increase energy and water affordability in Portsmouth homes.
- 3.8. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) is a government energy efficiency scheme to reduce carbon emissions and tackle fuel poverty. Energy suppliers over a certain size must fund measures which improve the ability of low income, fuel poor and vulnerable households to heat their homes. However, the amount of activity currently achieved under ECO does not reflect the level of need or urgency.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2019>

² <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/3/gid/1000044/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/102/are/E06000044/iid/90641/age/1/sex/4>

³ <https://www.nea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/E3G-NEA-Cold-homes-and-excess-winter-deaths.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics>

3.9. The council has declared a climate emergency to highlight the need for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We have pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Portsmouth by 2030, considering both the production and consumption of emissions. Emissions caused by the use of energy in the home comprise 31% of total emissions in the Solent region.

3.10. The council is developing an air quality local plan to reduce air pollution levels as quickly as possible. Although the majority of air pollution in Portsmouth is caused by transport, there is a level of local background pollution, which includes emissions from central heating systems, and therefore this strategy must have regard to the contribution that can be made to improving air quality. The greater impact is likely to be on indoor air quality, due to the mould spores created by condensation in cold homes. However, replacing inefficient boilers for example would reduce unnecessary emissions.

4. Legislative requirements

4.1 There are no legal requirements relating to the publication of this strategy.

5 Current activity

5.1 The energy services team based in Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services is the key team coordinating home energy efficiency improvements in Portsmouth, and has received national recognition for its success in attracting funding and delivering schemes to make homes more energy efficient.

5.2 Building on its reputation, the team is developing ambitious and innovative projects to reach more residents and deliver greater improvements.

5.3 The team coordinates a fuel poverty working group, bringing together agencies from across the city to promote partnership working in tackling fuel poverty. The group has provided training to other agencies in order to increase referrals to fuel poverty support services.

5.4 The council works in partnership with Agility Eco, who use external funding to deliver services to residents in Portsmouth and a number of other areas nationwide. Their LEAP (local energy advice partnership) home energy visits provide a simple referral and access point to a wide range of support including small measures (such as LED lightbulbs or simple draft-proofing), larger measures (such as first time gas central heating installation, and loft and cavity wall insulation), and onward referrals including income maximisation, fire safety and other safeguarding measures. LEAP currently visits around 500 vulnerable households each year.

5.5 Portsmouth City Council is the lead partner in the consortium delivering Warmer Homes - first time gas central heating for any eligible household in Portsmouth that currently has electric heating or gas fires, to replace their expensive and inefficient heating systems. 110 households in Portsmouth have already been assisted under this scheme.

- 5.6 Our emergency boiler replacement scheme has helped around 50 vulnerable households to date access free high efficiency boilers to replace their broken boiler.
- 5.7 The local authority housing team installs high efficiency boilers, cavity wall and loft insulation, and water efficiency measures. Efficiency improvements are considered at each opportunity to update or repair council-owned homes.
- 5.8 The council commissions Advice Portsmouth to provide a range of advice, including money, debt and benefits advice. This can help to ensure that people receive all of the money they are entitled to, that any debt repayments (including outstanding energy and water bill debts) are at an affordable level, and that people are able to manage their money to prioritise their essential outgoings. This advice is also available to city council tenants via their area housing office, where housing officers are supported by a specialist money adviser.
- 5.9 Switch Portsmouth was launched by Portsmouth City Council in partnership with uSwitch in 2017. The council added our brand to a free and impartial energy price comparison website and telephone helpline, to provide users with reassurance that this is a trusted provider. However, use of the service is currently low, reflecting the national situation where just 19% of British consumers switched supplier between July 2017 and June 2018. We are also working with Portsmouth Water and Southern Water to promote their social tariffs (reduced rates for financially disadvantaged customers).

6 Purpose of the strategy

- 6.1 The purpose of the strategy is to outline our vision, identify the challenges we face and areas for action, and set the direction for working in partnership to achieve our objectives. The strategy recommends that the council should take the lead, but that success will depend on enabling strong partnerships and effective collaborative working.
- 6.2 The strategy will provide the basis for the council and partners to attract additional investment to achieve our objectives, building on the success of our current activity, but scaling up delivery to meet the challenge we face.

7 Developing the strategy

- 7.1 The draft strategy has been developed by the council's energy services team and tackling poverty coordinator, who work closely with a number of partners, including the fuel poverty working group, developing and promoting the current offer of support.
- 7.2 The draft strategy should form the basis for collaborative working with a wide range of residents, stakeholders and partner organisations to ensure that we fully understand where action is required, what works, and how we can monitor and assess our impact.
- 7.3 After approval of the draft strategy, officers will initiate a two month period of consultation, providing an opportunity to engage residents and stakeholders,

including private and social sector landlords, in reviewing our vision, strategic objectives and ways of working.

- 7.4 The draft strategy will provide the basis on which the Council and local stakeholders will be able to bid for and obtain the maximum amount of funding available for energy and water efficiency support. Much of this focus will be in identifying emerging technologies and business model.
- 7.5 The draft strategy will be amended based on feedback from consultation, and the final strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval in February 2020.

8 Action plan

- 8.1 Following the consultation stage and approval of the final strategy, officers will lead on the development of a detailed action plan to outline the work that will be undertaken to deliver the short term and longer term opportunities identified in the strategy.
- 8.2 The action plan will be delivered in partnership, and will include timescales for delivery and measures to assess progress and drive improvement in achieving our strategic objectives.
- 8.3 The action plan will address the range of needs of different household types, including families, older people, houses in multiple occupancy and students, different property types, from pre-first world war to new build, and levels of income, from those in need of financial support to those able to pay for home improvements.
- 8.4 The action plan will create actions to ensure that funding received by the council and other local stakeholders is maximised. Officers will work with stakeholders and industry to identify emergent business models and grant funding to support delivery of energy and water efficiency measures.
- 8.5 Central to the action plan will be a marketing and communication campaign around home energy and water efficiency that can speak to the needs, interests and motivations of all households and stakeholders in the city, and can involve children and young people via schools and other settings. The campaign will include relevant messages for all demographics, to challenge myths, promote best practice, and encourage people to take action now.
- 8.6 The action plan will reflect the urgent need for action, the ambition of the council to be at the forefront of improvements around home energy and water efficiency, and the importance of innovation in going beyond what has been achieved so far, in order to achieve our vision.

9 Expected outcomes

- 9.1 Delivering the strategy will enable us to achieve our strategic objectives:
 - 9.1.1 Ensure our residents are informed, active and engaged consumers who take action to reduce energy and water costs and wastage.

- 9.1.2 Ensure all homes in Portsmouth meet a minimum Energy Performance Certificate rating of D by 2025, where practicable.
 - 9.1.3 Lead the way in using new housing developments and refurbishments to reach the highest possible levels of energy and water efficiency, and reduce carbon emissions.
 - 9.1.4 Develop clean energy generation that contributes to reducing fuel poverty, reducing carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions.
 - 9.1.5 Reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.
 - 9.1.6 Maximise household incomes to ensure every resident exceeds a minimum reasonable standard of living.
 - 9.1.7 Clearly communicate a comprehensive offer of assistance for residents.
- 9.2 The subsequent action plan will outline in detail all activity and outcomes for delivery of the strategy, but the following milestones have already been identified for achievement by April 2021:
- 9.2.1 £2.5 million of external funding to be secured for measures delivered to vulnerable households in Portsmouth.
 - 9.2.2 2,000 households living in properties with the lowest EPC rated homes to be contacted with specific support and 500 of these homes improved through funding enabled by this strategy.
 - 9.2.3 A range of communication channels employed to engage every Portsmouth household with information and advice on saving energy and water.
 - 9.2.4 1,500 referrals to be made into person-centred individual support, resulting in at least £2,000,000 of lifetime savings and additional income.
 - 9.2.5 Household carbon emissions reduced by an additional 500 tonnes each year as a result of home energy efficiency improvements.
 - 9.2.6 1,500 individual water saving measures to be installed for vulnerable households.
- 9.3 Longer term milestones will be specified in further detail as the action plan develops, but areas for action include:
- 9.3.1 An improvement in EPCs for all tenure types to a D rating where practicable.
 - 9.3.2 A reduction in household expenditure and emissions through the development of a domestic solar PV and storage programme.
 - 9.3.3 Data and learning achieved from trials of innovative technologies to improve home energy efficiency.
 - 9.3.4 Access to new funding streams likely to become available on the termination of the Energy Company Obligation.
 - 9.3.5 Greater energy awareness and engagement among Portsmouth's residents.

10 Reasons for recommendations

- 10.1 The recommendations ensure that we recognise and build on the success of work that is already underway, while setting the direction for action until 2025.

10.2 It is essential for this strategy to be aligned with the council's strategic priorities, including our carbon neutral goal and work to mitigate nitrate levels.

10.3 Publishing the draft strategy for consultation will provide a platform to engage with residents, partners and stakeholders, to ensure that our final strategy is based on a collaborative vision, putting people at the heart of what we do, and striving to ensure everyone in Portsmouth is able to use energy and water efficiently to meet their needs for comfort, safety, health and dignity.

10.4 Leading on the development of a detailed action plan will ensure that the activity required to achieve the strategic objectives is identified and progress can be monitored in order to drive improvement.

11 Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)

11.1 A preliminary EIA has been completed and is attached at Appendix 2. It identifies no potential negative impacts on any of the groups with protected characteristics as a result of this report. It recommends reviewing the preliminary EIA to understand if there is a need for a full EIA following the proposed period of consultation.

12 Social and environmental impact assessment

12.1 A social and environmental impact assessment has been completed and is attached at Appendix 3. The work recommended by the strategy has positive impacts across a range of issues, and no negative impacts have been identified.

13 City Solicitor's comments

13.1 There are no identified legal implications arising from the recommendations set out within this report (if approved). The recommendations will support the City Council's plans and strategic priorities as set out within this report as well as contributing to the Council's duties to address poor housing standards in the private rented sector.

14 Director of Finance comments

14.1 There are limited financial implications as a result of approving the recommendations within this report.

14.2 The costs of consultation for this strategy will be met from existing cash limited budgets.

14.3 If measures, works or initiatives are identified as a consequence of delivering the strategy then funding may be required and these will be delivered within existing approved resources or a request for more funding.

Signed by:

.....
James Hill, Director of Housing, Neighbourhood and Building Services

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - (Draft) Home energy and water efficiency strategy

Appendix 2 - Preliminary equality impact assessment

Appendix 3 - Social and environmental impact assessment

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/
deferred/ rejected by on

.....
Signed by:

Energy and water at home

A strategy for efficiency and affordability
for every household in Portsmouth

2019 - 2025

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Our vision

To ensure all homes in Portsmouth use energy and water as efficiently as possible for an appropriate level of comfort, safety, health and dignity, so that no Portsmouth household has to worry whether they can afford their energy and water bills.

How the vision will be delivered

- ✓ The council will lead the way in helping our community to make Portsmouth's homes more energy and water efficient and low-carbon.
- ✓ Residents will be empowered to reduce their energy and water bills and increase their household income, ensuring that their home energy costs are affordable.
- ✓ Support will be offered as widely as possible, to maximise the number of people who benefit, while targeting those most at risk from cold homes, to maximise the impact.
- ✓ The council will develop national partnerships to attract investment in energy and water efficiency into the city, supporting the creation of skilled green jobs locally and driving innovation in clean energy generation to ensure the city's energy and water needs are affordable, sustainable and secure.

Working together with our residents and stakeholders in the area we will ensure that everyone understands the help that is available and can meet their energy and water needs, to make Portsmouth a fairer, healthier and more prosperous city.

2

Strategic objectives

This strategy will contribute to the council's shared aim, to make Portsmouth a place that is fairer for everyone: a city where the council works together with thriving communities to put people at the heart of everything we do.

It focuses on our five corporate priorities:

1. Make Portsmouth a city that works together, enabling communities to thrive and people to live healthy, safe and independent lives.
2. Encourage regeneration built around our city's thriving culture, making Portsmouth a great place to live, work and visit.
3. Make our city cleaner, safer and greener.
4. Make Portsmouth a great place to live, learn and play, so our children and young people are safe, healthy and positive about their futures.
5. Make sure our council is a caring, competent and collaborative organisation that puts people at the heart of everything we do.

To ensure that all households in Portsmouth have access to affordable and sustainable energy we will strive to:

Priority One

- Ensure our residents are informed, active and engaged consumers who take action to reduce energy and water costs and wastage.

Priority Two

- Ensure all homes in Portsmouth meet a minimum Energy Performance Certificate rating of D by 2025 where practicable.
- Lead the way in using new housing developments and refurbishments to reach the highest possible levels of energy and water efficiency, and reduce carbon emissions.

Priority Three

- Develop clean energy generation that contributes to reducing fuel poverty, reducing carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions.
- Reduce carbon emissions and improve air quality.

Priority Four

- Maximise household incomes to ensure every resident exceeds a minimum reasonable standard of living.

Priority Five

- Clearly communicate a comprehensive offer of assistance for residents.

This strategy will contribute to the council's action plan to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Portsmouth by 2030.

The challenge

The council has declared a climate emergency to highlight the need for urgent action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions¹. We have pledged to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Portsmouth by 2030, considering both the production and consumption of emissions.

Emissions caused by the use of energy in the home comprise 31% of total emissions in the Solent region², and therefore this strategy has a role to play in achieving net zero carbon emissions. While working to increase energy efficiency and sustainability and improve indoor and outdoor air quality, we also want to achieve fairer access to energy for all. Fuel poverty is estimated to affect 10.9% of households in England and 12.1% in Portsmouth, which equates to over 11,000 households³ (see map on page 7). This is based on the Low Income High Costs indicator⁴, which considers a household to be fuel poor if:

- they have required fuel costs that are above average (the national median level), and
- were they to spend that amount, they would be left with a residual income below the official poverty line.

This measure of fuel poverty is based on the amount of energy the household should use, to achieve a reasonable standard of comfort and dignity. In reality, these households face a 'choice' between adequately heating and lighting their home or spending money on other essential outgoings. Many decide to use less energy than they need, and live in cold homes. This disproportionately affects the elderly, families with young children and those living with long-term sickness or disability.

Being unable to afford to adequately heat the home or use energy for other essential activities, such as cooking and cleaning, contributes to social isolation, poor health outcomes, an increase in hazards in the home, and impedes child development.

Every year there are around 125 more deaths in Portsmouth during the coldest four months of the year compared to the average of the rest of the year⁵. An estimated 30% of these deaths are attributable to the avoidable circumstances of living in cold homes⁶.

Cold homes are dwellings which are energy inefficient and difficult to heat; resulting in high energy bills and unnecessary carbon emissions. These properties can be broadly identified as those with an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of E, F or G. In Portsmouth there are 13,500 homes rated E, F or G (around 21% of all

¹ <https://democracy.portsmouth.gov.uk/documents/s22583/Draft%20Council%20Mins%20March%202019.pdf>

² <https://solentlep.org.uk/media/2669/solent-lep-heat-and-power-strategy-and-action-plan-final-docx.pdf>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/sub-regional-fuel-poverty-data-2019>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/fuel-poverty-statistics-methodology-handbook>

⁵ <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/public-health-outcomes-framework#page/3/gid/1000044/pat/6/par/E12000008/ati/102/are/E06000044/iid/90641/age/1/sex/4>

⁶ <https://www.nea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/E3G-NEA-Cold-homes-and-excess-winter-deaths.pdf>

homes with an EPC rating), with the private sector accounting for the lowest average EPC ratings. Assuming similar levels in homes without an EPC, the total number of cold homes in the city would be over 18,000.

Average annual home electricity bills rose by 5.6% in 2017, 9.1% in 2018, and are predicted to rise further, taking up an increasing proportion of household income. While home gas prices have reduced from a peak in 2014, in real terms gas prices have increased over the last 10 years⁷. The 10.3% increase in the energy price cap from April 2019 underlines why the price cap policy will not be enough to bring home energy bills down to an affordable level.

Despite high costs, many households are paying more than they need to, with 54% of consumers on a standard variable tariff (not including prepayment meter tariffs), which are usually the highest. Although regulation has driven huge improvements in the experience of consumers switching energy suppliers, only 19% of British consumers switched supplier between July 2017 and June 2018, and 61% have never switched supplier, or have only switched once⁸.

Under the English Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019, Portsmouth was ranked 59th most deprived out of 317 local authority areas⁹. A fifth of children living in the city are growing up in poverty, but in Charles Dickens ward this rises to over two fifths of children¹⁰. About 7,100 Portsmouth residents aged over 60 live in income deprivation.

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Where schemes are available to improve efficiency and make energy affordable, take-up is often low. Our residents who are most in need may be socially and digitally excluded. A history of mis-selling in the energy supplier market also appears to have contributed to a reluctance among some residents to ask for or accept support.

Although a fuel poverty strategy for England was published in 2015, there have been a number of legislative, policy and funding changes since then. This requires local authorities to be informed and flexible, with a clear local vision for sustainable business streams that are resilient to changes in the national context. The council has responded to the government's recent consultation on a new fuel poverty strategy for England.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/annual-domestic-energy-price-statistics>

⁸ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/state-energy-market-2018>

⁹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

¹⁰ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/personal-tax-credits-children-in-low-income-families-local-measure-2016-snapshot-as-at-31-august-2016>

Figure 1 shows the areas of Portsmouth with the highest proportion of fuel poor households, based on the Low Income, High Costs indicator (see definition page 4).

Whereas a map of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation¹¹ would show the highest concentrations of deprivation on Portsea Island around the council estate areas in Charles Dickens, Nelson and St Thomas wards, the highest prevalence of fuel poverty is in Central Southsea. This is driven by the concentration of relatively older homes in this area that are less energy efficient and may not have been maintained to the standard of many homes owned by the local authority.

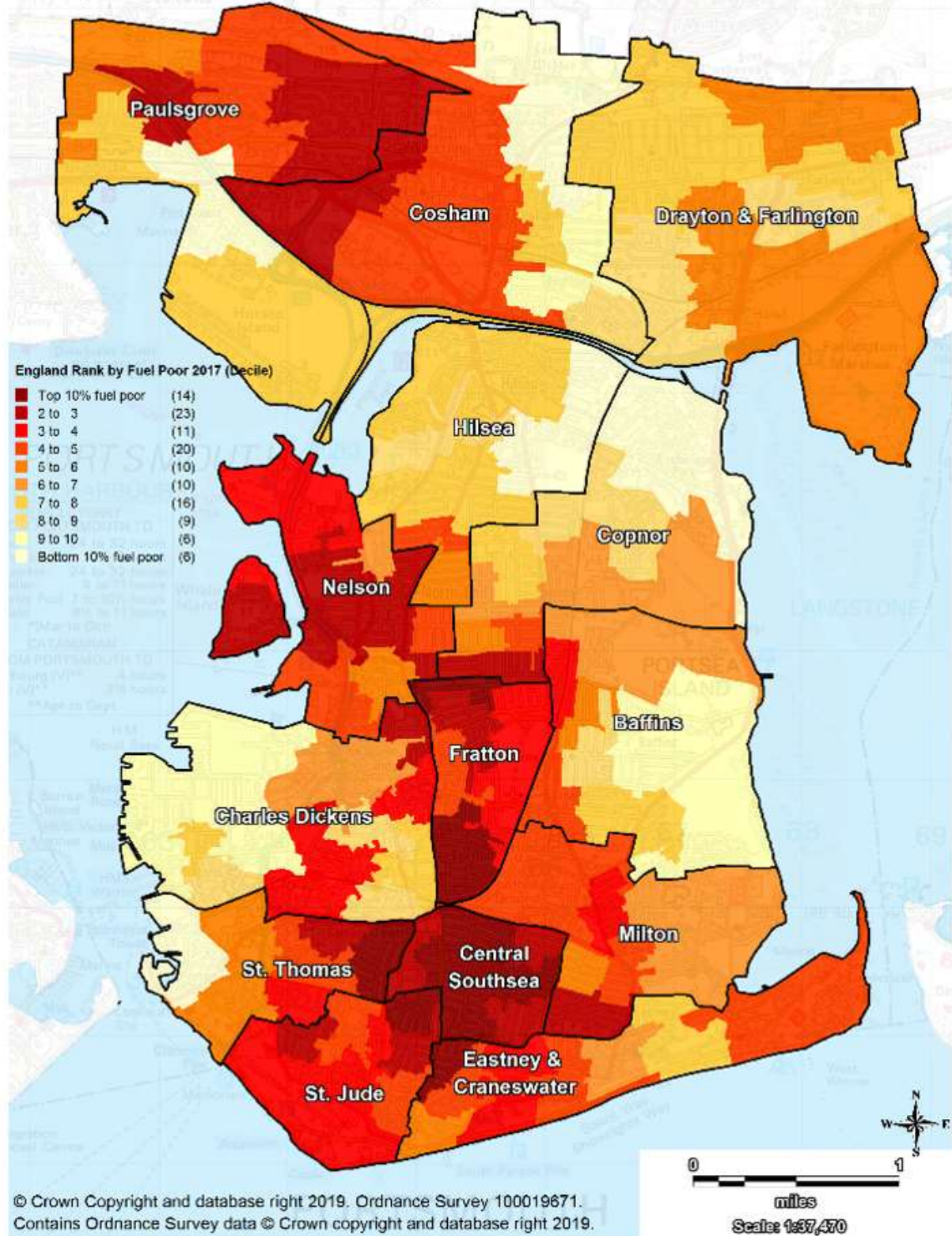
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¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/english-indices-of-deprivation-2019>

Figure 1 - A map of fuel poverty in Portsmouth

% of households fuel poor (low income, high costs). Portsmouth lower super outputs areas (LSOA) ranked relative to England in deciles, 2019 (2017 data). Electoral wards overlaid.

Source: Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy



Saving water

This strategy will also consider domestic water efficiency. Like electricity, gas and other fuel types; water is a natural resource consumed within homes which impacts on quality of life, household bills and carbon emissions. As with energy, measures can be taken to reduce water consumption, and tariffs can reduce household bills. Any reduction in the use of hot water will also be a reduction in energy use within the household. As hot water constitutes around 20% of a typical domestic heating bill these savings can be substantial¹². Water has an embedded carbon factor and wastewater contains nitrates; therefore any reduction in water demand contributes to lowering carbon emissions and mitigating nitrate levels in the Solent.

In homes with a water meter, water efficiency measures can be employed to reduce the water bill. Small measures include cistern retrofits and bags, and low-flow tap fittings and shower heads. Larger measures include installing new cisterns and replacing baths with showers.

As well as technical interventions, and as with energy, changing behaviour can save water. Encouraging residents to reduce toilet flushes, shower length and consumption from other household processes can be built into some of the energy outreach work done by schemes such as LEAP, as well as during other touch points with residents.

Water suppliers offer assistance with bills for vulnerable households. Portsmouth Water offers a social tariff to cap bills at £81 and Southern Water cap wastewater bills at £282 per annum. For a 3 bedroom household, this represents a saving of around £213 per year.

¹² Energy Savings Trust <https://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/saving-water>

Our ways of working

Working in partnership

The council's energy services team coordinates a city-wide fuel poverty working group, bringing together partners working in housing, health, social care and the voluntary and community sector. We are the lead partner in a consortium of nine local authorities delivering the Warmer Homes scheme across the UK. We seek new opportunities to share our expertise and resources with partners to ensure we can make every contact count and achieve the best outcomes for our community.

Focussing on the most vulnerable

Working with our thriving community to help as many of our residents as we can, we put those in greatest need at the heart of what we do. We provide information, training and support to partners who can help us to reach the most vulnerable.

Maximising investment in the city

We seek new opportunities to attract funding to tackle fuel poverty. We multiply the value of investment and generate income to support our activities through clean energy generation, and drive the development of projects that provide the resources to reduce home energy costs for residents. We aim to create sustainable business models that are resilient to changes in national policy and available resources.

Excellence through innovation

Understanding the national legislative and strategic direction, and working with partners to monitor the latest developments in fuel poverty reduction, we aim to be a leader in delivering improvements for our community, innovating and adapting to quickly respond to new learning and opportunities.

Measuring our impact

By monitoring and evaluating action on fuel poverty from our customer's point of view, we learn what works for people in Portsmouth, and use this learning to ensure we do what matters. Our approach will contribute to research in this field and help to inform local and national policy.

Leadership and participation in the strategy

The council is in a unique position to lead this strategy, but the vision can only be achieved in partnership; identifying who can contribute and providing opportunities and support to enable their participation for effective collaborative working. Residents, stakeholders and partner organisations all have a vital role to play.

What the council can offer	What partners can offer
Trusted civic leadership	Trusted local groups and organisations
Contact points for residents	Contact with residents who are not engaged with the council
Communication channels	Amplifying the message
Role as landlord	Links to residents who are not council tenants
Housing development	Private sector and social housing development
Improving private sector housing standards	Identifying residents living in poor conditions
Attracting external funding for projects	Delivering projects in partnership
Statutory and regulatory expertise	Experts by experience and community insight
Informing, coordinating and supporting action in the city	Sharing learning and providing scrutiny of the council's impact

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The workstreams

Access to energy and water at home is not fair or sustainable when people use more energy or water than they need to, pay too much for their utilities, and don't have enough income to meet their needs. Ensuring affordable and efficient energy for all requires action across three workstreams:

- **Improving home energy and water efficiency**

The fuel type, heating system, construction and age of a dwelling, along with the efficiency of the lighting and appliances used in it, all influence the energy and water needs of the occupants.

- **Cutting energy and water bills**

Bills are determined by the amount of energy used in a home, and the unit cost and standing charge of the tariff charged to that customer by their supplier.

- **Maximising household income**

Increasing the amount of money coming in to a household, and reducing unnecessary expenditure, can maximise the income available for essential costs such as energy and water.

How we are taking action now

Improving home energy and water efficiency

- The council currently offers to eligible households:
 - Free small measures such as draft-proofing, low energy lightbulbs and low-flow shower heads, provided through our Local Energy Advice Partnership home visits¹³
 - Warmer Homes project - free gas central heating systems¹⁴
 - Free broken gas boiler replacements during the winter period for owner occupiers¹⁵
 - ECO funding for larger energy saving measures such as loft and cavity wall insulation
 - Home improvement grants and loans
- Requiring new homes to exceed national planning policy standards
- Insulating council homes to a higher standard than current building regulations

Cutting energy and water bills

- Switch Portsmouth¹⁶ launched in 2017
- Energy saving and switching advice provided through our Local Energy Advice Partnership home visits
- Promoting social tariffs for water
- Energy efficiency advice service run by the energy services team
- Debt advice to reduce energy and water debt repayments to an affordable level
- Installation of solar PV systems to reduce our tenants' electricity bills

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Maximising household income

- Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-20¹⁷ outlines the priorities for action to reduce poverty in the city
- Money advice provided by Advice Portsmouth, our area housing office teams and other partners helps residents by:
 - Ensuring they receive all the benefits and other income they are entitled to
 - Prioritising expenditure and reducing unnecessary costs
 - Finding solutions for unmanageable debt
- Telephone advice to help people maximise their income offered with our Local Energy Advice Partnership home visits
- Funding from Portsmouth Switch and Portsmouth City Community Fund providing small grants to help people in acute fuel poverty
- Helping residents to increase their functional skills and soft skills, to increase their employability and opportunities for pay progression

¹³ www.applyforleap.org.uk

¹⁴ www.warmerhomes.org.uk

¹⁵ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/news/portsmouth-residents-can-now-benefit-from-free-emergency-boiler-initiative>

¹⁶ <https://www.ukpower.co.uk/wl/portsmouth>

¹⁷ <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/cou-tackling-poverty-strategy.pdf>

The way forward

Risks

- The national legislative and policy framework does not currently support local authorities to take radical and sustained action to address domestic energy issues.
- External funding streams are often short term and complex.
- The council has limited powers to improve privately rented and owner occupied homes, where energy efficiency is often lowest.
- There are barriers to reaching and engaging with the most vulnerable residents in the city, and in supporting them to make changes to their energy and water needs and usage.

Opportunities

We have identified a number of areas where there are opportunities to increase access to affordable and sustainable energy and water for everyone. This strategy provides the basis for a robust action plan with multiple workstreams and activities. The section below outlines some of the activities to be included within this action plan.

Opportunities that can be achieved by April 2021 are identified as short term, while longer term measures should be achieved by December 2025. The evolving policy and funding landscape will continue to create potential opportunities; this strategy will ensure that the council can work in partnership to utilise future opportunities for the benefit of our residents.

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Improving home energy and water efficiency

Short term

- Seek access to Innovation funding for smart technologies to improve home energy efficiency
- Target households most in need of improvements using the database of Energy Performance Certificates, innovative data mapping tools and property data on the most energy inefficient homes in the city including systems-built and park homes
- Increase referrals into the existing energy efficiency schemes
- Give a renewed purpose and increased scope to fuel poverty working group to ensure that every potential opportunity is fully utilised
- Trial innovative technologies, for example to reduce carbon emissions, improve heating controllability and reduce damp and mould issues in social housing
- Develop a programme of water saving measures and behavioural advice for vulnerable residents
- Report carbon savings from home energy efficiency interventions into the Portsmouth Climate Change Board and ensure both programmes are aligned
- Utilise academic research support to measure and validate interventions

Longer term

- Use the Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards regulations to drive support and enforcement to improve efficiency of private rented sector homes
- Develop strategies for engaging owner occupiers to make energy and water efficiency improvements to their homes; seeking delivery of works through external grants where available
- Develop partnerships with healthcare providers in order to deliver home improvements to people who are vulnerable due to health conditions
- Develop domestic solar PV and battery storage models in housing and explore other decentralised energy generation
- Develop business models to support the delivery of low carbon, low cost energy for domestic properties
- Develop near zero carbon and highly water efficient new housing within the city
- Trial near zero carbon retrofit projects within the PCC housing portfolio

Cutting energy and water bills

Short term

- Increase the participation, scope and scale of work undertaken with partners in the multi-agency fuel poverty working group
- Increase the level of engagement with frontline services within the city to enable them to make best use of home energy efficiency services
- Understand what matters to residents to continue to shape the offer available for households within the city
- Monitor schemes to understand when and why people choose not to take up some of the help available, and whether other support is needed; shape schemes to offer a greater level of support to a wider audience
- Improve and extend communication and engagement with residents to help them cut their energy bills
- Encourage the uptake of social water tariffs by vulnerable households and provide water saving advice to residents
- Create a website to act as a centralised online platform through which advice and support can be given, and referrals made

Longer term

- Monitor changes in the energy market and regulatory framework to identify opportunities to reduce energy bills
- Ensure all residents have access to smart meters and other technology to increase energy awareness and reduce wasted energy
- Explore options to provide sustainable low cost energy to Portsmouth residents
- Take advantage of time-of-use tariffs and storage technologies to protect residents from increasing electricity costs

Maximising household income

Short term

- Improve communication and engagement with residents to help them maximise their income
- Improve budgeting support provision for people claiming Universal Credit
- Encourage people to access money advice at an earlier stage to avoid missing out on income
- Improve uptake of income maximisation support following each LEAP home visit
- Ensure partner agencies and residents in the city understand where help is available to maximise income and reduce barriers to access

Longer term

- Help adults to develop their skills, maximising the potential of apprenticeships, to increase residents' earning potential
- Ensure that the council's regeneration and economic development agenda encourages employability and pay progression at all levels
- Support the creation of green energy jobs for local residents
- Ensure all services working with residents at risk of poverty can help people to engage with employability support to find work or better paid work
- Continue to provide advice and support via foodbanks and other services working with people in financial crisis to address the underlying causes

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Milestones

In order to measure the success of this strategy, a detailed action plan will be developed, that will be led by the council but will focus on working in partnership to deliver the short term and longer term opportunities identified in the strategy. The plan will include measures to assess progress and drive improvement in achieving our strategic objectives.

The action plan will outline in detail what we want to achieve and over what period of time, but the following milestones have already been identified in developing this strategy:

Short term - by April 2021

£2.5 million of external funding to be secured for measures delivered to vulnerable households in Portsmouth.

2,000 households living in properties with the lowest EPC rated homes to be contacted with specific support and **500** of these homes improved through funding enabled by this strategy.

A range of communication channels employed to engage every Portsmouth household with information and advice on saving energy and water.

1,500 referrals to be made into person-centred individual support, resulting in at least **£2,000,000** of lifetime savings and additional income.

Household carbon emissions reduced by an additional **500 tonnes** each year as a result of home energy efficiency improvements.

1,500 individual water saving measures to be installed for vulnerable households.

Longer term - by December 2025

The longer term metrics against which the success of this strategy can be assessed include:

- An improvement in EPC ratings for all tenure types to at least D rating where practicable.
- A reduction in household expenditure and emissions through the development of a domestic solar PV and storage programme.
- Data and learning achieved from trials of innovative technologies to improve home energy efficiency.
- Access to new funding streams likely to become available on the termination of the Energy Company Obligation.
- Greater energy awareness and engagement among Portsmouth's residents.

Strategic fit

The aims of this strategy and the action that will be taken to deliver it are aligned with other strategic priorities for the city:

- The council's pledge to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030
- Economic development and regeneration strategy 2019-36
- The Portsmouth plan
- Tackling poverty strategy 2015-20
- Health and wellbeing strategy 2018-21
- Air quality strategy 2017-27
- Portsmouth air quality local plan
- Nitrate neutrality mitigation measures

Consultation, monitoring and review

Consultation on this draft strategy will seek input from the community, our partners and other stakeholders, to ensure our vision, strategic objectives and ways of working deliver what matters to the people we serve, and that the way forward provides clear direction to reach our vision.

An action plan will be developed in partnership, which will include key performance indicators in order to measure the success of delivery.

Progress against the strategy will be monitored by Portsmouth's fuel poverty working group, led by the council's energy services team, who will review the actions underway and identify future priorities to meet our objectives.

We will continue to work with universities, strategic partners and government agencies to ensure that activity and outcomes are externally reviewed and validated.

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Equality Impact Assessment

Preliminary assessment form 2018

www.portsmouthccg.nhs.uk

www.portsmouth.gov.uk

The preliminary impact assessment is a quick and easy screening process. It should:

- identify those policies, projects, services, functions or strategies which require a full EIA by looking at:
 - negative, positive or no impact on any of the equality groups
 - How are going to mitigate or remove any potential negative impacts
 - opportunity to promote equality for the equality groups
 - data / feedback
- prioritise if and when a full EIA should be completed
- justify reasons for why a full EIA is not going to be completed

Directorate:

Housing, neighbourhood & building services

Service, function:

Energy Services Team

Title of policy, service, function, project or strategy (new or old) :

Energy and water at home: a strategy for efficiency and affordability for every household in Portsmouth 2019-25 (draft)

Type of policy, service, function, project or strategy:

- Existing
- New / proposed
- Changed

Q1 - What is the aim of your policy, service, function, project or strategy?

To ensure all homes in Portsmouth use energy and water as efficiently as possible for an appropriate level of comfort, safety, health and dignity, so that no Portsmouth household has to worry whether they can afford their energy and water bills.

Q2 - Who is this policy, service, function, project or strategy going to benefit or have a detrimental effect on and how?

The strategy will benefit residents who are using more energy or water than they need, paying too much for their essential utilities, or struggling to meet these costs due to low income. The strategy will support work to make homes more energy and water efficient, reduce bills and increase household income.

Q3 - Thinking about each group below, does, or could the policy, service, function, project or strategy have a negative impact on members of the equality groups below?

Group	Negative	Positive / no impact	Unclear
Age	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disability	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Race	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pregnancy and maternity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other excluded groups	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Note: Other excluded groups examples includes, Homeless, rough sleeper and unpaid carers. Many forms of exclusion are linked to financial disadvantage. How will this change affect people on low incomes, in financial crisis or living in areas of greater deprivation?

If the answer is "negative" or "unclear" consider doing a full EIA

If there are any potential negative impacts on any of the protected characteristics, What have you put in place to mitigate or remove the negative impacts/barriers?

The aim of this strategy is to increase home energy and water efficiency, improve the warmth and condition of homes and reduce fuel poverty. Therefore there will be positive benefits for anyone

assisted under the work resulting from this strategy, and wider benefits related to energy and water efficiency for those not directly benefiting from this provision. There are no negative impacts identified for any individuals or groups.

Q4 - Does, or could the policy, service, function, project or strategy help to promote equality for members of the equality groups? e.g. A new service has been created for people with a disability to help them gain employment this would mean that this helps promote equality for the protected characteristic of disability only.

Group	Yes	No	Unclear
Age	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Disability	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Race	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sex	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Gender reassignment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Sexual orientation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Religion or belief	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Pregnancy or maternity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Marriage & civil partnership	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
Other excluded groups	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

If the answer is "no" or "unclear" consider doing a full EIA

Q5 - Do you have any feedback data from the equality groups that influences, affects or shapes this policy, service, function, project or strategy?

Please add in the text boxes below what feedback / meetings you have attended for each specific protected characteristic

Group	Positive or negative feedback
Age	None
Disability	None
Race	None

Sex	None
Gender reassignment	None
Sexual orientation	None
Religion or belief	None
Pregnancy and maternity	None
Marriage & civil partnership	None
Other excluded groups	Feedback from stakeholders and residents accessing our current provision indicates that the high cost of energy and condition of homes in Portsmouth leads to people living in cold homes, and causes health problems related to cold and damp conditions. Taking action to address these problems will improve health and wellbeing and reduce financial stress.

Q6 - Using the assessments in questions 3, 4 and 5 should a full assessment be carried out on this policy, service, function or strategy?

yes No

PCC staff-If you have to complete a full EIA please contact the Equalities and diversity team if you require help Tel: 023 9283 4789 or email:equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

CCG staff-If you have to complete a full EIA please email: sehccg.equalityanddiveristy@nhs.net if you require help

Q7 - How have you come to this decision? Summarise your findings and conclusion below

This EIA should be reviewed following the period of consultation on the draft strategy, to identify whether a full assessment should be carried out in relation to the final strategy.

Q8 - Who was involved in the EIA?

Mark Sage, Tackling Poverty Coordinator
Andrew Waggott, Energy Services Team Manager

This EIA has been approved by: Meredydd Hughes

Contact number: 023 9283 4539

Date: 20/09/19

PCC staff-Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality and diversity team. We will contact you with any comments or queries about your preliminary EIA.

Telephone: 023 9283 4789, Email: equalities@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

CCG staff-Please email a copy of your completed EIA to the Equality lead who will contact you with any comments or queries about your preliminary . Email: sehccg.equalityanddiversity@nhs.net

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Social and environmental impact assessment

Energy and water at home: a strategy for efficiency and affordability for every household in Portsmouth 2019-25

Type	Description	Impact	Details	How can the impact be measured?
Social impact	Employment, training and education	Positive	Creating employment in delivering energy efficiency improvements. Reducing the amount low income households spend on energy and water will increase their disposable income, which is likely to be spent in the local area, supporting employment.	Numbers of jobs and apprenticeships created. Modelling of savings to households.
	Housing and local facilities	Positive	Improvements to existing housing stock - making homes warmer will help to reduce condensation and mould. Driving high standards in new developments.	Number and financial value of improvements. Efficiency standards of new homes.
	Income and financial inclusion	Positive	Maximising income, reducing expenditure on essential household utilities and setting up affordable debt repayments will improve household budgets.	Additional income achieved. Number of customers switching. Debt advice interventions and outcomes.
	Mental health and well-being	Positive	There is clear evidence linking cold homes and financial stress to poor mental health outcomes. Action to make homes warmer, reduce the cost of energy and increase incomes will reduce these risk factors.	Interventions provided to users of mental health services.
	Physical health	Positive	Respiratory and circulatory health issues are most directly affected by living in cold and damp homes, but other long term conditions can also benefit from improvements to home conditions.	Interventions provided to respiratory and circulatory patients.
	Family, friends and relationships	None		

	Citizenship and community	Positive	Including residents in the consultation and delivery of the strategy, particularly in relation to promoting the help that is available to friends, family and the wider community, can increase social cohesion and strengthen communities.	Number of people referred to energy services by friends/family/community.
	Conservation of the natural environment	None		
	Arts, heritage, sports and faith	None		
Environmental impact	Reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Portsmouth	Positive	Continuing to develop solar PV and other forms of renewable energy, including energy storage, can offset GHG emissions. Although most of the energy used in homes is not produced in Portsmouth, making homes more energy efficient will reduce the GHG emissions from wasted energy. However, reducing the cost of energy could increase energy use in some low income households who are currently unable to afford to use the energy needed for an acceptable level of comfort and dignity, although this is expected to be outweighed by the impact of efficiency improvements.	Carbon savings from renewable energy generation and storage. Energy savings from efficiency interventions. Research into energy use by low income households before and after interventions.
	Plan for future climate change	Positive	Increasing efficiency will reduce the demand for energy in future. Making homes warmer will protect against the risk of more severe low temperatures. Improving water efficiency will help to prepare for water scarcity or increased cost.	Energy and water savings from efficiency interventions.
	Pollution: air/ water/ soil/ noise	Positive	Gas boilers contribute to air pollution, so improving efficiency in heating and hot water will reduce these emissions. Making homes warmer will help to reduce condensation and the mould spores it creates, reducing indoor air pollution. Water	Number of inefficient boilers replaced. Impact of additional insulation. Water savings from efficiency interventions.

			efficiency will mitigate damage caused by water-borne nitrates in the Solent.	
	Protect coastal and inland waters	None		
	Enhance biodiversity	None		
	Encourage resource efficiency (energy, water, materials and minerals)	Positive	This strategy focuses on energy and water efficiency. There will be some demand for new materials and minerals, but these will mainly be directed to improving the housing stock where they are likely to have a long lifespan and high use value.	Energy and water savings from efficiency interventions.
	Public Safety: Minimise waste generation/ infection control/ accidental injury /fire risk	Positive	Reducing the number of cold homes will reduce the risk of falls and other health issues exacerbated by the cold. LEAP home energy visits identify fire risk and refer to the fire service when needed.	Number of people with health issues assisted. Number of referrals to fire service.
	Reduce need to travel / promote sustainable forms of transport	None		
	Improves the physical environment e.g. housing quality, public and green space	Positive	Improve home conditions.	Number of homes improved, value of improvements.

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Agenda Item 5

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Cabinet

Date of meeting: 5 November 2019

Subject: The Aquind Interconnector Project

Report From: Chief Executive

Report by: Paddy May, Strategy Unit

Wards affected: All

Key decision: NO

Full Council decision: NO

1. Purpose of report

1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the Aquind project and to seek delegated authority to enable officers to respond in a timely manner to the Planning Inspectorate as they deal with the Aquind application for the granting of a Development Consent Order (DCO).

2. Recommendations

2.1. Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Note that Aquind have been engaging with PCC officers as they develop their application to the Planning Inspectorate and that they are due to submit their application by the end of October 2019.
2. Consider whether they wish to change their position of objecting to the Aquind proposal.
3. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, to make representations and to respond to queries and requests from Aquind and the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Council in a timely manner.
4. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to agree access, rights or land acquisition proposals affecting the Council's land with Aquind if they are necessary to develop the infrastructure detailed in Aquind's DCO application.
5. Delegate authority to the Chief Executive and to the Section 151 Officer, after consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader, to make representations, and to respond to queries and requests from Aquind

and the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Council in a timely manner in relation to land ownership matters.

6. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth to make decisions on behalf of Portsmouth City Council during the DCO Examination that respond to issues raised by the Examining Authority that is considering the Aquind proposal.

3. Background

3.1 Cabinet received a report on the Aquind Ltd proposal at their meeting on 9th July 2019. Aquind are proposing to construct and operate an underground and marine electricity interconnector between the south coast of England and Normandy in France (the AQUIND Interconnector). This interconnector will have capacity to transmit up to 16 million MWh (or 16 TWh) of electricity annually or approximately 5% of Great Britain's total electricity consumption and 3% of the French total electricity consumption. The technology used will allow the flow of electricity both ways. Aquind are proposing that the interconnector cable will come ashore at Eastney and that the cable will run up through Portsmouth to a converter station in Lovedean. At the meeting in July, Cabinet decided the following:

- Noted that Aquind are seeking to develop an electricity Interconnector between the UK and France with a converter station in Lovedean. They are proposing to "land" the high voltage DC (HVDC) electricity cable at Eastney and run it up through Portsmouth to the converter station at Lovedean.
- Noted that despite representations from Portsmouth City Council that the Aquind proposal should be determined by the relevant local planning authorities (including Portsmouth City Council), the Government has decided that the proposal was a 'Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project' that should be determined by the Secretary of State through the Development Consent Order process.
- Agreed to seek the support of Full Council to reinforce the Cabinet's objection to the route of the HVDC cable whilst also working constructively with Aquind and other stakeholders.
- Agreed that the Council responds to this proposal in a coordinated way and where possible works with neighbouring councils on any common approaches.
- Noted that any additional external costs incurred in the current year associated with the need to make an informed and considered response to the proposal will be met from the Council's Corporate Contingency.

3.2 When the project was discussed at Full Council on 16th July the following motion was unanimously agreed:

RESOLVED that Full Council reinforce the Cabinet's objection to the route of the HVDC cable whilst also working constructively with Aquind and other stakeholders.

- 3.3 Aquind have informed Officers that they expect to be submitting their application to the Planning Inspectorate (PINS) for an Order to Grant Development Consent for their project. The DCO process is different to a normal planning application process. Whilst the Council wanted the application to be dealt through the Local Planning Authority, the Secretary of State decided that it would be dealt with through the DCO process. A summary of the DCO process is given below:
- The DCO application will include a draft of the proposed Development Consent Order and a Consultation Report summarising how the applicant has had regard to consultation responses
 - PINS has 28 days to decide whether the application meets the necessary requirements to be accepted for examination
 - If the application is accepted then Aquind have to publish a notice that the application has been submitted and accepted by PINS
 - This creates a 30 day registration period for potential consultees to become an Interested Party and make a representation on the application in writing
 - At this point PINS will also appoint an Examining Authority
 - The Examining Authority will then do a 6 month examination of the application. During this examination Interested Parties will be expected to provide more details on their views in writing. The Examining Authority will put questions to all parties and there will be a range of different hearings including on specific issues. This will be an intense period and most of the work will be done in writing. There can be very tight deadlines for responses, for example, the Examining Authority may require an answer the next day.
 - At the end of the 6 month examination the Examining Authority has 3 months to make a recommendation to the Secretary of State and the Secretary of State has a further three months to make a decision.
- 3.4 PINS have already written to Portsmouth City Council about the Aquind application. They have stated that as soon as they receive the application they will invite the Council to submit an "adequacy of consultation representation" and they will have regard to this when they decide whether or not to accept the application. Once PINS have notified us, we will have 14 days to submit its response. **Cabinet is asked to note that the DCO process will be out of the Council's control and the whole DCO process has been designed to decide complex national infrastructure planning issues with considerable speed.** If the application is accepted, the Council will be invited by PINS to submit a Local Impact Report (LIR) about the application.
- 3.5 Unless Members state otherwise, Portsmouth City Council will maintain its objection to the application in its LIR and argue that Portsmouth is the wrong location for the interconnector route because of the amount of disruption and the negative impacts created with the laying of the cables through Portsmouth.

- 3.6 Members need to be aware that PINS will be deciding the application and may decide that despite these issues, the proposal is acceptable on planning grounds for the national infrastructure that will be delivered. The City Council therefore needs to be looking at ways it can mitigate and ameliorate the impact of the laying of the cable and should be making these points strongly during the examination process. We have been engaging with Aquind on these issues since the last Cabinet report and we will continue to do so.
- 3.7 Council officers have also been engaging with planning officers from neighbouring authorities and we are currently exploring whether we can commission jointly the legal and other support needed for the examination period. If we have similar issues, this could be a very efficient way of dealing with the application.
- 4. Reasons for recommendations**
- 4.1 Members are asked to consider whether they wish to change their objection to the Aquind Proposal in the LIR that PINS will invite us to submit, if PINS accept the Aquind application.
- 4.2 Delegated authority is sought to enable the Chief Executive, s151 Officer and the Assistant Director Planning and Economic Growth (in consultation with the Leader and Deputy Leader) to enable them to be able to respond to the tight timescales that PINS will impose for responses. The necessity for slick internal approval structures has already been stressed by PINS and this delegated authority would be a mechanism to achieve that.
- 4.3 Delegated authority is also sought to deal with property issues that will be needed to facilitate the laying of the cable if approval to the DCO is given. During the actual Examination, it is likely that decisions will need to be made expeditiously by Council representatives and it will not be possible to consult with Members before these decisions are made. To deal with this, delegated authority is sought for the Assistant Director, Planning and Economic Growth to be able to make decisions on behalf of Portsmouth City Council during the actual examination. There is potential that some of these decisions will need to be made immediately, without reference to the Leader or Deputy Leader.
- 5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)**
- 5.1 With this project being an Aquind project, dealt with through the DCO process, it will be for Aquind to ensure that the appropriate impact assessments, including the equalities assessment, are fully completed.
- 6. Legal Implications/City Solicitor comments**
- 6.1 The delegations sought in this report are crucial to ensure that the Council's views are conveyed in a timely and effective fashion so the Council can have optimal influence. As noted above, timescales leading to a decision on DCO applications are tight and strict to fast-track applications of supposedly national significance.
- 6.2 As referenced in the body of the report, the Council is looking to instruct counsel to advise on the Council's position throughout the DCO process

and to scrutinise the proposed terms of the Development Consent Order against the statutory framework.

6.3 The Council continues to negotiate a Planning Performance Agreement with Aquind to recoup some of the costs imposed on the Council as a consultee to the DCO process, both in the form of internal officer time and the fees of external consultants.

7. Director of Finance and Information Services comments

7.1 The Local Planning Authority (LPA) will need to prepare the Local Impact report (LIR), the cost is not currently known but will need to be funded from Corporate Contingency. The Planning Performance Agreement will cover some of this cost.

7.2 The LPA will need to highlight the financial impact within this report in particular the disruption to the Council's operations and loss of income that derives from this, any impact on market value of its assets and the overall impact (including the economic impact) to the City caused by the disruption.

7.3 Portsmouth City Council is already in early talks with Aquind to ensure that it is properly compensated for any mitigation and remediation works that are required as a result of this project.

8. Environmental Impact

8.1 The issue of the environmental impact from the Aquind project will need to be dealt with by Aquind in their DCO submission. The LPA in their LIR submission to PINS will need to consider the environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposal. Until the submission is made it is not possible to have a definitive view of these impacts.

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

Appendices:

Signed by:

.....
DAVID WILLIAMS
Chief Executive

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/
deferred/ rejected by on

..... Signed by: