

**Environmental Working Party – Update from the meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

**Carbon Neutral 2030 Report – Early insights**

Further to Minute No. 161.c) of the Council Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022, CO2 Target are developing a ‘Carbon Neutral Strategy’ which will provide the Town Council with a costed programme for achieving Carbon neutrality by 2030 in terms of its energy use. The original intention was that this work would be produced by October, enabling Councillors to form a view, meet budget setting deadlines and enable an application to be made to the SALIX grant body in November 2022, when it was anticipated that applications would open.

Since then, we have been advised by the consultant that the SALIX application date will be brought forward to the end of September, date yet unknown. As these grants are ‘first come first served’ and require significant data to be used, STC needs to be ready. The consultant is therefore undertaking the work rapidly to be completed by end of w/c 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. We now have an early view of some of the proposals and the following were shared with the Environment Working Group on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

It should be noted that all the assumptions and suggestions below still need to be validated by CO2 Target, the consultancy, before final completion. The early indications are as below:

**Key proposals**

- Solar Panels
- Air Source Heat Pumps
- Lighting redesign
- Building Management System (to control heat and energy use by a computer in an efficient manner)

**Element 1: Key sites**

1. TIC / Beach Huts – Solar Panels and maybe heat pump.
2. Beach Gardens Pavilion – Solar Panels on roof.
3. Prospect Depot – Solar Panels on roof.
4. Town Hall – Heat pumps and taking energy overnight to be stored in batteries for daytime use.
5. Some toilets are included for solar, but we haven’t seen this data yet.

CO2 Target have suggested that it is probable that if all the proposals within the above four sites could be implemented then the Town Council would be carbon neutral and indeed would have surplus energy to ‘sell’ energy back to the grid - but it should be noted that there may be some planning concerns over some of these sites.

Gas will be removed from all sites.

**Cost envelope for Element 1** – £900,000, current assumption is that this could be match-funded by SALIX, so assume a £450,000 cost to the Town Council over a period of a few years to achieve carbon neutrality. The report, once received, will have the detail regarding the cost per year.

## **Element 2: Other proposals**

It is likely that the report will set out a range of other proposals. These will be confirmed at a later date.

**SALIX grant** – likely to open for submissions w/c 26<sup>th</sup> September, although might be later – will be issued on a ‘first come first served’ basis and they tend to ‘sell out’ within an hour or so. It should be noted that a grant submission does not commit the Council to the spend as grant applications can be withdrawn. If the Town Council is successful in achieving the first stage of the grant, then further technical discussion will be held with SALIX during the winter and it is expected that a final grant approval would be provided in February, although this information is subject to change. As suggested above, the SALIX grants are heavily oversubscribed, and probably more so now that energy prices are increasing.

### **Decision required**

To determine whether to provide delegated authority for officers to submit a SALIX grant application for the work proposed within the report.

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