

# Cabinet



Date of meeting:	08 November 2022
Title of Report:	<b>Chelson Meadow Solar Farm</b>
Lead Member:	Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
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Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

## Purpose of Report

To gain an in principle cabinet decision on the first of 5 business cases relating to financing the construction of the proposed solar farm at Chelson Meadow which gained planning permission in the summer.

## Recommendations and Reasons

That Cabinet:

- Note the full Business Case
- Approve the capital allocation of £320,000 for development works, as set out in the business case to inform future reports and final approval of the Business Case.
- Note that the final Business Case will be brought back to by March 2023 for a final decision on whether to proceed with the Project.

## Alternative options considered and rejected

The alternatives would be to not to allocate funding and proceed to undertake feasibility for the scheme. Given the Council's increasing energy costs and the possible savings that can be achieved through the Project it would be prudent to explore the possibility to bring forward the scheme and assist in alleviating budget pressures by mitigating the cost of energy.

## Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Directly feeds into the priority 'A green sustainable city that cares about the environment'.

## Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The solar farm as a whole provides the opportunity to generate an income over the lifetime of the asset (up to 30 years). It also provides an opportunity for The Council to purchase the electricity generated, this will guarantee and provide certainty over its electricity costs over the long term.



**Sign off:**

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)

Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes

Date agreed: 18/10/2022

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change) – approved verbally

Date approved: 19/10/2022