

Growth and Infrastructure Overview and Scrutiny Committee



Date of meeting:	01 March 2023
Title of Report:	Chelson Meadow Community Solar - Virtual Power Purchase Agreement
Lead Member:	Councillor James Stoneman (Cabinet Member for Climate Change and Governance)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Paul Elliott
Contact Email:	Paul.elliott@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	
Key Decision:	Yes
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

This business case seeks a commitment from the Council to enter into a Virtual Power Purchase Agreement with Chelson Community Solar (CCS).

Recommendations and Reason

It is recommended that:

- Committee supports the business case being considered at Cabinet

Alternative options considered and rejected

Entering into a VPPA with Chelson Community Solar is an essential factor in enabling the solar farm to be built. Without it the business case and financial models are not viable. Although CCS may be able to find another organisation interested in entering the VPPA, this would require more time and delay construction of the solar farm by at least 12 months.

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 (30 years). Over the 30 years the project is forecast to generate an income of £480K. The VPPA will deliver short term financial benefits and be reviewed on annual basis. The benefits to the Council go beyond the income as it will also help us smooth out financial pressures from volatile energy markets.

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne

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

Date agreed: 14/02/2023

Cabinet Member approval: Councillor James Stoneman - email

Date approved: 20/02/2023