



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

23RD JANUARY 2020

TAFFS WELL THERMAL SPRING – GENERATING CARBON FREE ENERGY FOR THE COMMUNITY OF TAFFS WELL - RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND COMMUNICATION IN CONSULTATION WITH COUNCILLOR MARK NORRIS, CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE ESTATES

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Cabinet with the recommendations of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group, which considered a report on the current situation with regards to the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report considered by the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group on the 18th December 2019 (attached as Appendix 1) and;
- 2.2 Agree the recommendation of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group, which is to approve the next steps of the project.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To acknowledge the work of the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group and their recommendation to approve the next steps of the project.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 In accordance with the content of the internal recommendation paper and the evaluation of the technical options it was agreed to proceed on the basis of providing a heat network to replace the existing heating system at two adjacent RCT Council buildings. For the Taffs Well Park Pavilion (which is currently used as a crèche facility but could have other project-related use in future) the intention is to replace the existing electric heating. For Fynnon Taf Primary

School (now including the new school block that is planned) the plan is to replace or integrate with the existing gas fired system.

- 4.4 In accordance with the content of an internal recommendation paper and the evaluation of the financial options, the intended plan is that the project will be funded by RCT Council as part of its wider commitments including carbon reduction. The current expected core project is expected to save 37.1 tonnes of CO₂.
- 4.5 There is also future potential for developing a second phase of the project by expanding the use of the Spring water into a small but wider District heating network.

5. THE CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP

- 5.1 The Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group met on the 18th December 2019 to consider the report on the current situation with regards to the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project.
- 5.2 At the meeting, the Steering Group were provided with a detailed PowerPoint presentation, which sought to explain the background to the project, the proposed way forward and the cost implications.
- 5.3 The Steering Group were pleased to learn that the current expected core project was expected to save 37.1 tonnes of CO₂ and agreed to recommend to Cabinet the approval of the project.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 6.1 There are no Legal Implications aligned to this report.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no equality or diversity implications as a result of the recommendations set out in the report.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 8.1 There are no consultation requirements at present with regards to this supporting report. However, should the project proceed to the next phases of development, appropriate consultations will take place as part of the planning approval process.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 9.1 The existing early feasibility work is funded through existing approved budgets.
- 9.2 There a number of cost variables that will affect the final cost but overall the cost is unlikely to exceed the expected range of £250k to £300k. However by

structuring the financial elements to maximise the Renewable Heat Allowance payment the pay-back on investment could be reduced by several years

10. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT

10.1 This report has full regard to the seven national wellbeing goals.

11. CONCLUSION

11.1 On the 18th December 2019, the Climate Change Cabinet Steering Group met to discuss the report on the current situation with regards to the Taffs Well Spring Renewable Energy Project.

11.2 At the meeting, following a number of queries, Members resolved to recommend to Cabinet to approve the next steps of the project.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

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**CLIMATE CHANGE CABINET STEERING GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS –
RECYCLING WITHIN RCT**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AND
COMMUNICATION IN CONSULTATION WITH COUNCILLOR ANN CRIMMINGS,
CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE**