

Decision Number: 09 Solar Together Scheme

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

The Local Authority (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Subject: To agree that Sevenoaks District Council (SDC) join other Kent local Authorities and take part in the Kent County Council Solar Together Scheme, an innovative collective buying scheme offering high-quality solar photovoltaic (PV) panels and battery storage to help reduce energy bills and preventing harmful carbon emissions/ environmental impacts.

Most Kent-based local authorities have signed up for the scheme and SDC are seeking to take part in the second phase of the scheme.

Details of Decision taken

To join the KCC Solar Together Scheme and allocate one-off funding of approximately £3,200 (from existing budgets) for a district-wide mail-out to households that may benefit from energy efficiency measures.

Reason for Decision

Solar Together Kent is a collective buying scheme to help able-to-pay households, who may not know where to start with solar panel installations and want the reassurance of a council-backed scheme, to get a reduced-price installation of solar panels. It relies on large numbers of households signing up to negotiate a better deal for everyone taking part. The scheme is co-ordinated by Kent County Council (KCC) on behalf of participating Councils and is administered by iChoosr.

The objectives for this project are:

- To increase the number of solar panels installed in Kent and Medway.
- To provide access to reduced price quotes to make solar energy more accessible to residents.
- To help reduce carbon emissions in the domestic sector.
- To stimulate the local solar economy by raising public awareness and interest in solar technology and supporting the mainstreaming of roof-top solar as a household improvement.
- To reduce carbon emissions by around 777 tonnes per year.

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The first phase in Kent ran from autumn 2020 and is forecast to install panels and/or batteries on around 400 homes in Kent, saving 9130 tonnes of carbon over 25 years.

SDC aims to participate in the next phase due to commence in February 2022. This phase is expected to surpass the number of installations from the first as a result of changes in energy markets, raised awareness, changes the provider will make to roll out installations more efficiently and reduced impacts of Covid.

The scheme supports our ambition to help the reduce carbon emissions within the District and the outcomes of the scheme will be reported to members during 2022.

All Documents considered:

The Community Plan
Housing Strategy Action Plan/Emerging Housing Strategy 2022-2026
2020/2021 SDC Net Zero Proposed Actions

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None.

Financial implications

One-off funding of approximately £3,200 (from existing budget)

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement

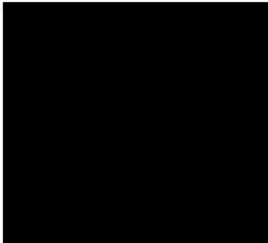

There are no legal implications.

Equality Impacts (Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty)
The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users.

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(For Democratic Services use)

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Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted	
Cllr Peter Fleming - Leader of the Council Cllr Kevin Maskell - Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health Sarah Robson - Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer, People and Places	
Details of any conflicts of interest	
a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker	
b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict	
Decision taken by:	Cllr Kevin Maskell - Portfolio Holder for Housing & Health
Signed by Portfolio Holder	
Date of Decision	13/1/22.
Record made by:	
Date of record:	20/01/2022

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