

Cabinet

Supplementary Information



Date: Tuesday, 5 April 2022

Time: 4.00 pm

Venue: The Council Chamber - City Hall, College Green, Bristol, BS1 5TR

6. Reports from scrutiny commission

(Pages 2 - 3)

Report from OSMB

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Date: Monday, 04 April 2022



Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Referral to Cabinet

On 29th March 22, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board considered the Cabinet report “Appointment of Preferred Bidder for the City Leap Energy Partnership.”

The Board was positive about the proposals, and in principle supports the next steps; and asks Cabinet to consider the following issues and recommendations prioritised by Members:

- It was welcomed that grass-roots organisations would not be excluded from the opportunities arising from City Leap, and Members asked for further assurances and details on how the Partner intended to work with and engage local organisations.
- The Board would like assurances that there has been consideration around how inflation and increasing interest rates would affect the figures as set out in the report; including whether inflation had been considered with regard to the Partner’s expected investment.
- Members requested details on how the Partner would generate profit from the Joint Venture.
- Members noted that City Leap provided an opportunity to retrofit Council homes, and it was hoped this would happen and so help to provide improved and lower cost housing for tenants.
- It was noted that City Leap’s focus was on the Council owned estate; but Members would like clarification as to whether council homes which had been purchased under the Right-to-Buy scheme would be beneficiaries of City Leap projects.
- The Board agreed that it was important to bring the benefits to everyone across Bristol, including people in privately owned homes.
- Members would like further detail on City Leap’s projected annual contribution to decarbonisation, including the projected % improvement for future years.
- The Board was pleased to hear that the Council would retain ownership of its wind and solar assets.
- Whilst the Board acknowledged that the process to appoint the Partner was commercially sensitive and confidential, Members noted that more information would have been useful for informed overview and scrutiny.
- Members welcomed the plans to supply jobs for local people across Bristol, and to uphold equality and diversity policies, including aiming to ensure the workforce is representative of Bristol’s communities.

- Members noted that the transfer of Council staff from energy services would necessitate a TUPE process and this needed to be undertaken before the transfer was concluded.

The Board acknowledged the amount of work and expertise that had enabled the achievement of this milestone; and welcomed the opportunity to undertake further scrutiny of next steps before the scheduled Cabinet report in June 22. Members noted that the papers for this meeting were not available until the day prior and asked that for future scrutiny sessions they be given more time to review the reports.