

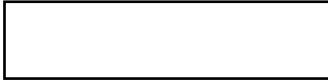
OFFICER DECISION RECORD

Decision Title: South West Local Solar Scheme – Project Final Approval
Decision reference number: ODN23_1001
Decision date: 26 th April 2023
<p>Background / reason for decision:</p> <p>Purpose of decision - Final approval of the £569,312.00 South West Local Solar Scheme (SWLSS) project, managed by Bristol Community Energy Ltd.</p> <p>The SWLSS project was given conditional approval by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority Committee in September 2022 for Green Recovery Fund (GRF) monies. The approval was subject to ‘...having a guarantor in place, or other appropriate controls agreed by CEOs’.</p> <p>The project comprises the development and installation of over 2 Megawatts (MW) of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems on rooftops across the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority region, specifically targeting small to medium businesses and community focused buildings such as schools. Capital funding will be for 1MW of schemes which may not otherwise be considered to be viable. 50% of projects will be delivered in areas that are in the poorest 50% on the National Indices of Multiple Deprivation and 8 Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and community groups will be involved in renewable energy activities through communications and development.</p> <p>Bristol Community Energy Ltd are unable to find a guarantor, so work has been undertaken to re-assess their finance, governance and track record to the satisfaction of Mayoral Combined Authority officers. The applicant is still considered high risk. The solutions below set out the mitigations to this risk.</p>
<p>Options considered:</p> <p>Informal conversations were held with other potential guarantors, but this was the only formal option considered.</p>
<p>Decision:</p> <p>To give final approval to the SWLSS project, subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Payment is made monthly in arrears, with evidence of invoices and defrayal required. • The Mayoral Combined Authority undertakes independent verification of progress to minimise risks. Independent verification will include monthly meetings with the Bristol Energy Cooperative project team, attendance of their meetings with stakeholders such as local authorities and communities and site visits. • Bristol Community Energy Ltd will be required to fund and submit an Audit Report 6 months following this final approval and to accompany their final claim.

Consultation:

The Chief Executives of the West of England unitary authorities were consulted on these proposals.

Officer making decision: Richard Ennis



Position: Interim Chief Executive, West of England Mayoral Combined Authority

Report / appendices / background documents: