

North East Derbyshire District Council

Clay Cross Town Deal Board (CCTDB)

5th November 2021

Low Carbon

Report of the Director for Growth

Classification: This report is public

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PURPOSE / SUMMARY

To update the Board on the link between the Energy Network Strategy and the low carbon housing and commercial space projects. Additionally to seek the approval of the Low Carbon Working Group's recommendation to progress the Energy Network Strategy in parallel with the development of the business cases for low carbon housing and commercial space.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the CCTDB notes the contents of this report
2. That the CCTDB approves the recommendation to progress the Energy Network Strategy in parallel with the development of the business cases for low carbon housing and commercial space projects.

1 Background *(reasons for bringing the report)*

- 1.1 The Low Carbon Working Group has been drafting the procurement brief for external specialists to develop the Low Carbon Energy Network Strategy.
- 1.2 The brief has been vetted by experts from within the Working Group but also by experts through the Towns Hub. Their comments will be incorporated into the brief and, subject to CCTDB approval of it and the procurement method, the brief will be issued.

2. Details of Proposal or Information

- 2.1 The suggestion from the Working Group is to complete the Low Carbon Energy Network Strategy and the business cases for the low carbon housing and commercial space projects in parallel. This means that the priority for the projects is the delivery of housing and workspace units as examples and demonstrators of 'better than current standards' rather than a specific carbon reduction quantum.
- 2.2 A carbon reduction target/ priority would be dependent on the completion of the Strategy meaning the finalisation and completion of the business cases for the housing and workspace projects would be some time away. The advantage of the suggested approach is that the low carbon housing and commercial business case work and subsequent delivery will be able to progress without delay. In turn this means that local 'exemplars' could be delivered in a timely manner.
- 2.3 The Low Carbon Energy Network Strategy is likely to take around 6 months to be completed but this will still be in advance of the housing and/or workspace being delivered. Therefore the strategy will still be able to inform and influence the final design of properties and premises being developed.
- 2.4 While the opportunity for windfall sites to come forward and accelerate the delivery of low carbon housing and commercial space, in general the physical delivery of the homes and commercial workspace will take a number of months/ years to complete. Consequently, introducing a dependency on completion of the Strategy will add further delays to the programme, which increases the risk that delivery may not take place within the Town Deal funding period.

3 Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1 The suggested approach will help ensure the delivery of the low carbon residential units and commercial space within the Town Deal funding period.
- 3.2 The Strategy will still be able to influence the delivery of low carbon residential and commercial space due to the long lead in times for development.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 To complete the Strategy in advance of the business cases for the low carbon residential and commercial space has been rejected. This approach will delay the delivery of the low carbon residential and commercial space.

DOCUMENT INFORMATION

Appendix No	Title
Background Papers	
None	