

Single Member Cabinet Decision**Executive
Forward Plan
Reference****E3473****Bath and West Community Energy Cooperation Agreement
Renewal**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate emergency and Sustainable travel
The Issue	<p>Since 2011, the Council has had in place a Cooperation Agreement with Bath & West Community Energy (BWCE). The Agreement has enabled strong partnership working between the Council and BWCE due our aligned vision for increasing renewables across the district.</p> <p>The Agreement was last renewed in 2016. This report proposes the renewal of the Agreement for a further five years, up to 2028. The draft Agreement has been updated to reflect current Council policy and strategies.</p>
Decision Date	Not before 14th August 2023
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the cooperation agreement between B&NES and Bath and West Community energy should be renewed for a further 5 years, up until 2028.
Rationale for decision	<p>Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) Council and BWCE have had a Cooperation Agreement since 2011 when BWCE were first set up. The intention of the Cooperation Agreement is to signal the joint collaborative working relationship we have with BWCE. It declares through a formal, public document that we have a shared vision and agree to co-operate to identify and bring forward projects and support each other wherever possible. The renewal of the Cooperation Agreement means that the Council and BWCE agree to continue to work together to identify; energy projects within the district, opportunities for joint research about community-based projects, opportunities for people in the area to invest and potentially secure a return from projects and other funding opportunities.</p> <p>The agreement supports us in our commitment to providing the leadership necessary for the district to achieve net zero by 2030.</p>
Financial and budget implications	The agreement contains no financial or budgetary obligations.
Issues considered	Social Inclusion; Sustainability; Property; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillor; Cabinet colleagues; Other B&NES Services; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer

How consultation was carried out	<p>Ward Councillor; The item was discussed at the Sustainable Paces Board meeting 2nd Aug.</p> <p>Cabinet colleagues; The item was discussed at the Sustainable Paces Board meeting on 2nd Aug.</p> <p>Other B&NES Services; - procurement were involved when the cooperation agreement was first drafted in 2011.</p> <p>Section 151 Finance Officer; The single member decision paper work outlining the proposal was reviewed and approved. The item was also discussed at the Strategic Leadership team (SLT) meeting on 8th Feb.</p> <p>Chief Executive; The item was discussed at the Strategic Leadership team (SLT) meeting on 8th Feb.</p> <p>Monitoring Officer; The single member decision paper work outlining the proposal was reviewed and approved. The item was also discussed at the Strategic Leadership team (SLT) meeting.</p>
Other options considered	The Cooperation Agreement is not an exclusive agreement, and the Council can choose to pursue other options should it be in its interests to do so and would positively consider any other organisation's proposals that achieved the same aims.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None.
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	N/A

Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	Cllr Sarah Warren
Date of Signature	14th August 2023
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	