

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL  
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY – RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**14 November 2013**

**Review of the Potential of Solar Power for DCC Property**

**Scoping Report**

**Purpose of the Report**

To inform Members of the scope of a proposed scrutiny review of the potential to harness solar power for Derbyshire County Council properties.

**Information and Analysis**

This Committee is asked (by Cllr Clive Moesby, Committee Chair) to undertake a review of the potential opportunity for generating solar power at properties owned by the County Council.

The County Council's current budget situation, and the need to explore methods of reducing operating costs with minimum impact on services, is well documented.

All the Council's 4 Improvement and Scrutiny Committees have recently received information on the Council's budget projections over the next 5 years and it has been concluded that the Council must make every endeavor to reduce expenditure and increase income, from either current or new sources.

A scrutiny review is proposed to evaluate the benefits to the authority of the use of solar power, and the potential to generate power at locations, and on property, owned by the Council.

The potential of generating "free" electricity, and selling surplus energy to the National Grid, will be investigated to establish whether this is an option which is worth developing by the County Council.

As well as the possible financial savings, the review will also consider the sustainable energy aspect of solar power, and how this could contribute to the Council's carbon reduction targets.

This review will support and contribute to the initiatives currently being developed by the Deputy Cabinet Member for Council Services, Cllr. John Owen.

## **Potential Information Sources**

Solar Energy consultants  
The Council's in-house Sustainable Energy and Carbon Reduction officers  
Project managers of similar schemes  
Director of Property  
Strategic Directors and senior officers, as appropriate  
Local Planning officers

## **Timescale for the Review**

It is anticipated that the review will be concluded in March 2014.

## **Other Considerations**

The relevance of the following factors has also been considered in preparing this report; Property, Finance, Human Relations, Legal and Human Rights, Prevention of Crime

## **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

1. the scoping report for the Improvement and Scrutiny review of the potential for solar power for Derbyshire County Council property be approved;
2. nominations be received from Committee Members to form a working group for the review.

**John McElvaney**

**DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**