

**Public**  
**Key Decision – Yes**

## **HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Title/Subject Matter:** One Leisure PV Solar Installs

**Meeting/Date:** Overview and Scrutiny – 7 November 2024  
Cabinet – 12 November 2024

**Executive Portfolio:** Councillor Ben Pitt (BP)

**Report by:** Matthew Raby (MR) – Facilities Manager

**Ward(s) affected:** Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots

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### **Executive Summary:**

Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels are currently installed on the rooves at

- One Leisure Huntingdon Dryside (OLH)
- One Leisure St Ives Indoor (OLSI)
- One Leisure St Ives Outdoor (OLSIO)
- One Leisure St Neots (OLSN)

Following a review of utility costs and energy usage it has been identified that installing further/new roof mounted solar panels at

- One Leisure Huntingdon Dryside (OLH)
- One Leisure Ramsey (OLR)
- One Leisure St Ives Outdoor (OLSIO)
- One Leisure St Neots (OLSN)

will reduce expenditure for each of these sites as well as help HDC to achieve its overall goal of being Net Zero by 2040 by reducing Carbon used.

Indicative designs have been populated providing an estimated energy reduction (kWh and CO2 Tonnes) and cost savings. Please see appendix 1 for full projected savings.

Total project cost - £412,000

All 4 project installs have a combined payback period of 8.25 years.

**Recommendation(s):**

To note the impact of the carbon reduction and cost savings over the expected 25 year lifespan of the solar PV panels.

The Cabinet is

**RECOMMENDED**

- To approve the project to be funded by the use of Reserves; and the project be added to the Councils capital programme to be delivered across the 24/25 and 25/26 financial years.
- To delegate to the Corporate Director - Finance & Resources (S151) in consultation with the Executive Councillor for Finances & Resources to make any consequential amendments to budgets and release of necessary funds to deliver the project.

## 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report aims to gain formal approval to proceed with the project of installation of Solar PV panels on the following One Leisure Sites.

- One Leisure Huntingdon Dry
- One Leisure Ramsey
- One Leisure St Ives Outdoor
- One Leisure St Neots

## 2. THE SCHEME

2.1 With the Net Zero target of 2040, decarbonisation and reducing carbon is a key priority. The installation of further Solar PV Panels would contribute towards this, an increased benefit is that there is a financial saving associated as summarised in the chart below (please see appendix 1 for full financial savings).

From our indicative designs the expected system sizes are noted below although this is subject to final structural surveys and gaining the necessary permissions and consent from relevant Schools and Planning.

OLH – 54kWp System  
OLR - 140kWp System  
OLSIO – 44kWp System  
OLSN – 94kWp System

Indicative Solar PV designs below

One Leisure St Ives Outdoor



One Leisure Huntingdon (Dryside)



One Leisure St Neots



One Leisure Ramsey



Total indicative costs are as below.

OLR - £120,000  
OLH – £57,000  
OLSI Outdoor – £52,000  
OLSN - £110,000  
Sub Total - £339,000  
Procurement/ Project Management/ Lease fees - £38,000  
Contingency - £35,000  
Total - £412,000

Payback Periods for each project as separate projects.

OLR: 7 Years  
OLH: 8 Years  
OLSIO: 12 Years  
OLSN: 6 Years

All 4 projects have a combined payback period of 8.25 years

The export of any excess electricity gained from the solar PV systems has not been included within the project due to this potentially having an impact on the installation time due to the delayed acceptance on applications from UK Power Network (UKPN). Following the installations we would be able to determine the excess electricity available and investigate the options of both exporting back to the grid and battery storage on an individual site basis.

#### **Savings Across All Sites (cumulative):**

	<b>kWh Saving:</b>	<b>Financial Saving:</b>	<b>CO2 Savings:</b>
Year 1	231,462 kWh	£60,354.00	40 tonnes
Year 2	461,767 kWh	£120,408.00	80 tonnes
Year 3	690,920 kWh	£180,159.00	120 tonnes
Year 4	918,928 kWh	£239,614.00	160 tonnes
Year 5	1,145,795 kWh	£298,771.00	200 tonnes
Year 10	2,263,232 kWh	£590,147.00	400 tonnes
Year 20	4,415,816 kWh	£897,839.00	800 tonnes
Year 25 (panel lifespan)	5,449,314 kWh	£1,420,808.00	950 tonnes

These are indicative savings and kWh production based on a desk top proposal. Saving will vary with regards to installation size and electric contract pricing.

### 3. OPTIONS CONSIDERED

3.1 Options considered are noted below.

#### **OPTION 1 = DO NOTHING:** (Not recommended)

*Pros:*

- No change

*Cons:*

- No Change
- Spending more money
- Lesson control on carbon footprint
- Miss opportunity for revenue from sale of excess energy production

#### **OPTION 2 = DELIVER A BIG BANG APPROACH:** (Recommended)

Deliver all installs simultaneously.

This is the recommended approach as we can deliver as a single project.

*Pros:*

- Shorter Delivery timescales.
- Staff allocation over a shorter period.
- Payback on project returns sooner.
- Equipment and materials purchased in bulk therefore avoiding inflation over time.

*Cons:*

- Lack of opportunity for lessons learnt.

#### **OPTION 3 = DELIVER A PHASED APPROACH:** (Not recommended)

*Pros:*

- Enables us to review any lessons learnt from previous installations.

*Cons:*

- Longer delivery timescales
- Staff allocation over a longer period.
- Cost of materials and inflation could impact quotations.
- Project management costs would increase due to duration of the project.

The outcome recommendation from this is to complete the project as Option 2 = Deliver a big bang approach.

Our recommendation is that we proceed with completion of all 4 sites. Payback is at 12 years for One Leisure St Ives Outdoor although the other 3 are within 8 years.

**Note:** Within our Salix recycling fund which has been running since 2010, any project with a pay back of less than 10 years is normally automatically accepted due to the excellent return on investment

#### 4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

To be added following O&S on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

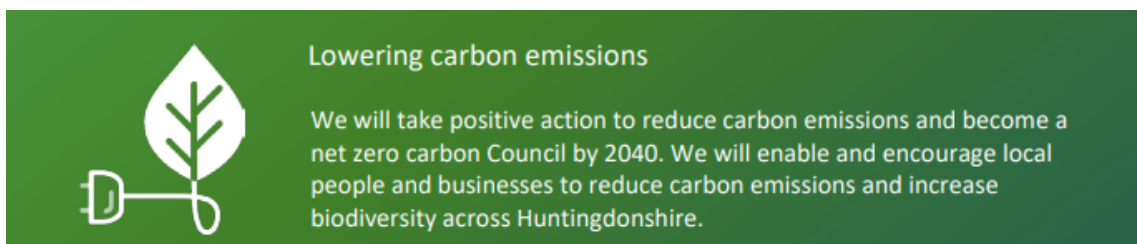
#### 5. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

Title	Start/Finish Date	Duration
Tender Contract	Completed within Solar Canopy Tender for OLSI	N/A
Award of tender	November 2024	1 Week
Pre-liminary assessments		4 Weeks
Design and Development Stage		4 Weeks
DNO Application and Planning Permission		12 Weeks
Delivery		18 Weeks
Snagging		4 Weeks
Practical Completion	September 2025	N/A

#### 6. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

[\(See Corporate Plan\)](#)

- 6.1 The installation of Solar PV panels links to Priority 2 of HDC's Corporate Plan. It is estimated that the installation would reduce carbon emissions by 40 CO2 tonnes per annum.



- 6.2 The installation of the Solar PV will also link with Priority 3 of HDC's Corporate Plan. It is estimated that the installation would reduce One Leisure's annual utility spend by £60,000.



Delivering good quality, high value-for-money services with good control and compliance with statutory obligations

Around 80% of our resources are aligned to business as usual (BAU) service delivery and our third priority focuses on delivering good quality, high value for money services with good control and compliance with statutory functions. While new activities will mostly focus on delivering outcomes under our two new outward-facing priorities, we will continue to provide a wide range of existing statutory and important services and seek to improve their efficiency and effectiveness.

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 Leases will need to be updated for One Leisure Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots. This will involve Estates and Legal to make and review the required changes.
- 7.2 Planning permission may be required so this will be applied for at the earliest opportunity.

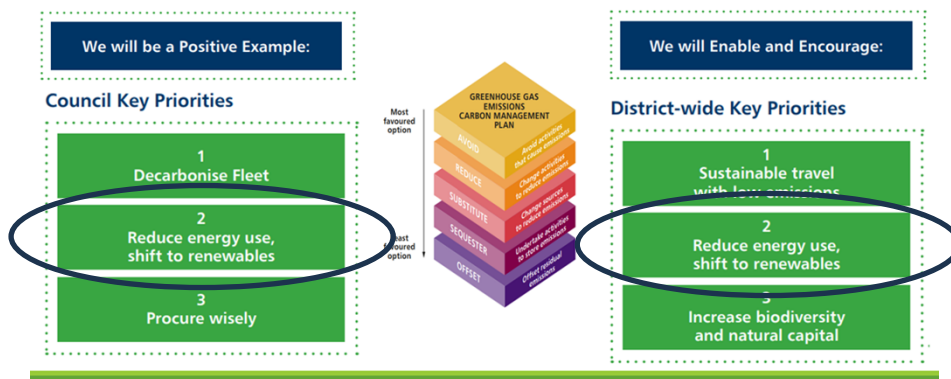
## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 No additional resources will be required for the delivery of the Solar PV panel installation. Facilities Management will oversee the project with assistance from each of the One Leisure Managers. Procurement of this project for this project was included with the recent tender for the Solar PV Canopy at OLSI so can be awarded directly.
- 8.2 Finance have confirmed that there is sufficient funding within reserves to cover the cost of this investment. Approval is therefore sought to utilise this funding, with a delegation to the councils Corporate Director - Finance & Resources (S151) to make the necessary adjustments.

## 9. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 In February 2023 HDC agreed its climate strategy with its aim to be Net Zero by 2040. By implementing the installation of Solar Panels this will assist to delivering this objective.

## Climate Strategy Priorities



Priority*	Action	Theme	Portfolio
High	Review Council assets to establish further opportunities to improve insulation, energy efficiency and adaptation to reduce their carbon impact	Energy and Renewables	Corporate and Shared Services
High	Develop plan for the Council to use 100% renewable energy	Energy and Renewables	Corporate and Shared Services

### 10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 10.1 This is an affordable, suitable and deliverable scheme enabling One Leisure to reduce its utility costs and CO2 consumption while assisting the overall HDC goal of being Net Zero by 2040.

### 11. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

- Appendix 1 – Estimated Payback  
Appendix 2 - PID One Leisure Solar.

### CONTACT OFFICER

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