

ALTERED VERSION

Motion to Investigate Installing Solar PV on Council Homes

Proposed by: Cllr Malcolm Wallace

Seconded by: Cllr Suzanne White

This Councils notes that:

- Winchester is responsible for providing a management and maintenance service to over 5,000 council properties throughout the Winchester district
- ~~The Council has set a target for Winchester district to become carbon neutral by 2030~~
- ~~The council has a track record of providing energy efficient new homes, delivering over 200 new homes in the last 7 years utilising solar panels to reduce energy bills and carbon footprint. There are now over 700 solar panels on council homes in the Winchester district.~~
- ~~The council has retrofitted more than 500 council homes, and the council's Retrofit program has been extended to combine fabric upgrades with renewable technologies such as solar PV and battery storage to ensure all our homes meet EPC 'C' or above by 2030.~~
- The energy improvements and business case for solar PV is well-established; almost one in 10 households in Winchester district already has a registered solar system
- Business models for installing solar PV on council homes have been proven by other councils and include, for example, establishing a Power Purchase Agreement whereby the Council installs the PV, then sells power to residents at below market rates. Under this agreement payback is typically 5-8 years. After that time, profits from the scheme would return to the main Housing Account and could be used for further improvements to Winchester housing stock.
- Any programme to install solar PV on council homes could be outsourced with minimal pull on existing staff. One business located within Winchester district installed PV on 11,000 homes last year, so outsource capability exists for doing this work.

This Council resolves to:

- Use existing resources and experience of solar PV installation on HRA communal blocks and individual homes, along with analysis of current market models, to u~~Undertake a feasibility study within existing resources~~ for installing solar PV on Council Homes
- ~~Results from the study to be~~ taken to Economy & Housing policy committee for review and comment, then reported to Cabinet prior to budget setting for 26/27~~reported out to Cabinet Committee Housing by the end of Autumn 2025~~