

Transport & Environment Committee

10am, Tuesday, 14 January 2014

Solar Photovoltaic Energy – Proposed Council Sites – Referral from the Economy Committee

Item number

Report number

Wards

All

Links

Coalition pledges See attached report

Council outcomes See attached report

Single Outcome Agreement See attached report

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Terms of Referral

Solar Photovoltaic Energy – a Strategic Approach – Referral from the Economy Committee

Terms of referral

On 16 December 2013, the Economy Committee considered a report by the Director of Services for Communities which provided an update against the action to identify potential Council owned sites that could be allocated for Solar Photovoltaic Energy. The sites required to be available for use for a period of 25 years to ensure adequate return on investment.

The Economy Committee agreed:

- 1) To note the progress against the decision of the Economy Committee of 17 September 2013.
- 2) To note the importance of keeping Neighbourhood Partnerships informed of developments.
- 3) To refer the report by the Director of Services for Communities to the Transport and Environment Committee and the Finance and Resources Committee for information.

For decision/action

The Economy Committee has referred the attached report to the Transport and Environment Committee for information.

Background reading / external references

Economy Committee 16 December 2013

Links

Coalition pledges	See attached report
Council outcomes	See attached report
Single Outcome Agreement	See attached report
Appendices	Report by the Director of Services for Communities

Economy Committee

10.00 a.m., Monday, 16 December 2013

Solar Photovoltaic Energy – Proposed Council Sites

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Links

Coalition pledges [P1, P15, P16, P17, P28, P48, P50](#)

Council outcomes [C07, C08, C09](#)

Single Outcome Agreement [S01](#)

Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

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Executive summary

Solar Photovoltaic Energy – Proposed Council Sites

Summary

At its meeting on 17 September 2013, the Economy Committee approved a number of actions relating to the provision of sites for Solar Photovoltaic Energy.

This report provides an update against the action for the Director of Services for Communities to identify potential Council owned sites that could be allocated for this use for a duration of 25 years to ensure adequate return on investment.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Economy Committee:-

- 1) Notes the progress against the decision of the Economy Committee of 17 September 2013; and
- 2) Refers this report to the Transport and Environment Committee and Finance and Resources Committee for information.

Measures of success

The project has the ability to utilise undevelopable sites to create green energy that will contribute to the national agenda to reduce carbon emissions.

Financial impact

There are no direct financial impacts on the Council as the sites involved are not capable of alternative development.

Depending on the success of the project a future revenue stream could be achieved however this is difficult to quantify at present until the due diligence is completed.

Equalities impact

A full Equalities Impact Assessment was carried out on the Economic Strategy in February 2012. The focus of this report on sustainability principles should help further equalities objectives. This will be monitored as part of the ongoing process of operational plan review.

Sustainability impact

The recommendations in this report are intended to lead to positive impacts on sustainability. Solar energy is proven technology which reduces carbon emissions. An

energy strategy offers the potential to make significant progress on encouraging renewable and promoting energy efficiency.

Consultation and engagement

The content of this report was influenced through informal dialogue with internal consultees and potential developer interests.

Background reading / external references

N/A

Solar Photovoltaic Energy – Proposed Council Sites

1. Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 17 September 2013, the Economy Committee agreed the following:
- That the Economic Development Service develops, in collaboration with other Council services, a strategic framework to support jobs and investment in the city's energy sector, building in provision for solar photovoltaic arrays and other innovative technologies.
 - To receive an interim report on the energy framework by February 2014.
 - To instruct the Director of Services for Communities to identify Council land (such as landfill sites) which can be allocated for the necessary 25 years to ensure adequate return on investment and report back within one cycle.
 - Note that the responsibility for delivering these projects would be the responsibility of the Transport and Environment Committee.
 - To recommend to the Transport and Environment Committee that solar photovoltaic array projects on these sites should be delivered at no capital cost to the Council.
 - To recommend to the Transport and Environment Committee that a proportion of the electricity produced by these projects be directed to mitigate against fuel poverty in the city.
 - To refer the report by the Head of Economic Development to the Transport and Environment Committee.
- 1.2 This report provides an update against the action for the Director of Services for Communities to identify Council land, which have the potential to be allocated for solar photovoltaic arrays.

2. Main report

- 2.1 A map of all registered landfill sites is attached as Appendix 1. The majority of these sites are in private ownership however the Council has identified a number of sites (or parts of) that have the potential to be investigated for solar photovoltaic arrays as shown on Appendix 2.

2.2 These sites and areas are:-

- Braehead Civic Amenity Site – former recycling centre (4.43 hectares)
- Hallyards Wood – land adjacent to woodland (6.69 hectares)
- Norton Quarry – former quarry (3.38 hectares)
- Maleny Bing – former tip (3.12 hectares)
- Blinkbonny Tip – former tip (4.52 hectares)
- Torphin Quarry – former quarry (15.39 hectares)
- Bonaly Country Park – large open space (potential for parts of) (279.81 hectares)
- Gimerton Bing – former tip (2.61 hectares)
- Blackford Quarry – former quarry (3.57 hectares)

2.3 The proposal will be to initially seek detailed planning and environmental advice on the proposed sites to ensure that they are fit for the proposed purpose. Matters that will be taken into account include landscape/visual impact, ecological impact, archaeology, impact on communities glint and glare impacts and aviation matters.

2.4 Subject to the above due diligence, the intention is to prepare a suite of sites that will be suitable for the proposed use. Further work will also be carried on how the proposed solar arrays are procured and physically delivered and this will be the subject of a further report to the Transport and Environment Committee in early 2014.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that the Economy Committee:-

- 1) Notes the progress against the decision of the Economy Committee of 17 September 2013; and
- 2) Refers this report to the Transport and Environment Committee and Finance and Resources Committee for information.

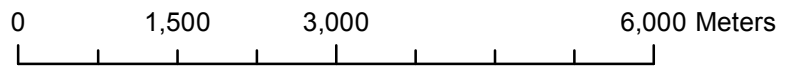
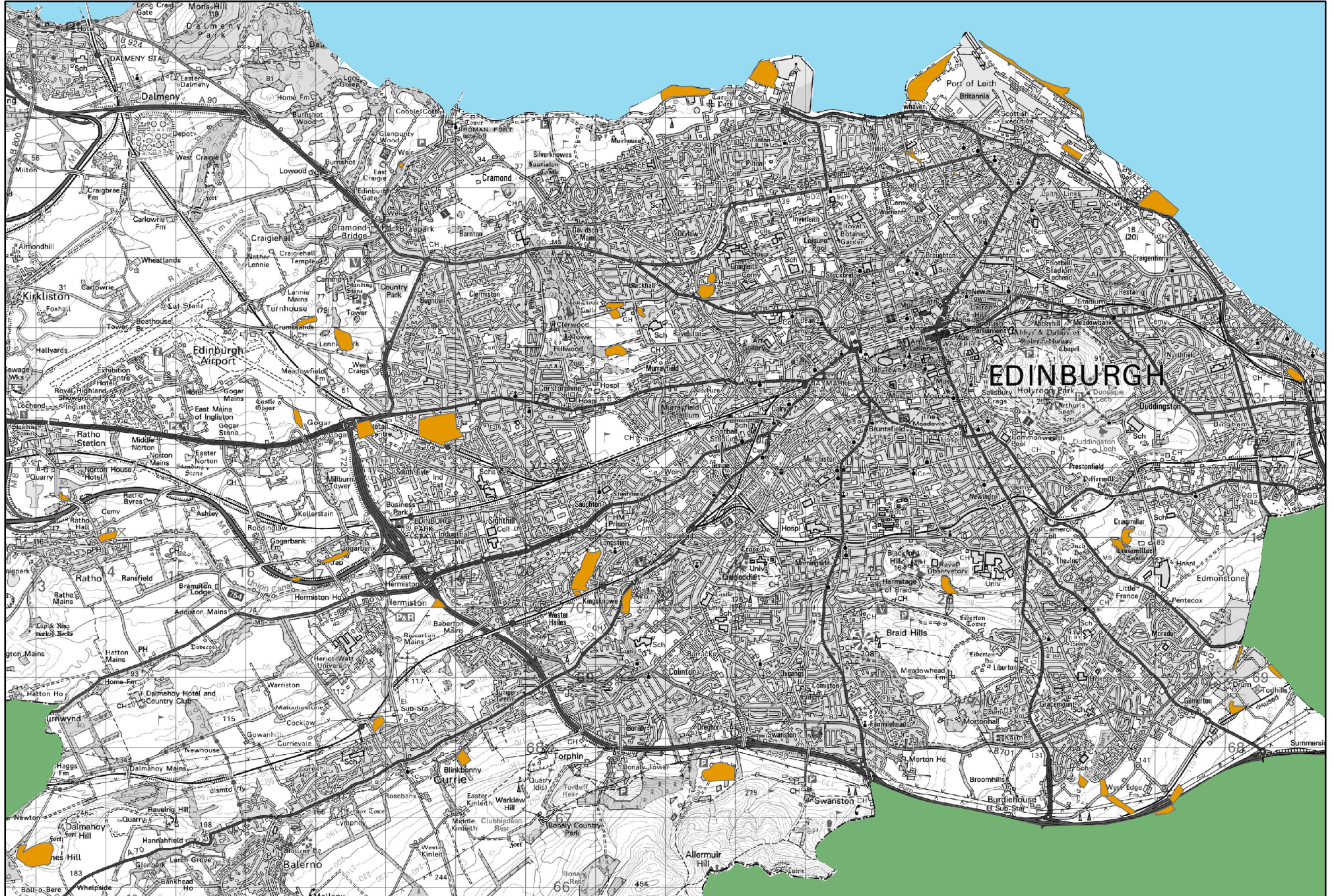
Mark Turley

Director of Services for Communities

Links

Coalition pledges	<p>P7 – Further develop the Edinburgh Guarantee to improve work prospects for school leavers.</p> <p>P15 – Work with public organisations, the private sector and social enterprise to promote Edinburgh to investors.</p> <p>P16 – Examine ways to source new funding to support small businesses.</p> <p>P17 – Continue efforts to develop the city’s gap sites and encourage regeneration.</p> <p>P28 – Further strengthen our links with the business community by developing and implementing strategies to promote and protect the economic well being of the City.</p> <p>P49 – Continue to increase recycling levels across the city and reducing the proportion of waste going to landfill.</p> <p>P50 – Meet greenhouse gas targets, including the national target of 42% by 2020.</p>
Council outcomes	<p>C07 – Edinburgh draws new investment in development and regeneration.</p> <p>C08 - Improved health and reduced inequalities</p> <p>C09 – Edinburgh residents are able to access job opportunities.</p>
Single Outcome Agreement	<p>S01 - Edinburgh's citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health</p>
Appendices	<p>Registered landfill sites</p> <p>Council owned sites</p>

Landfill



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