

SHAREHOLDER CABINET COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
1 MARCH 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Peter Carpenter Corporate Director of Resources		
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Cllr David Seaton Cabinet Member for Finance		
Contact Officer(s):	Carole Coe, Commercial Finance Manager	Tel. 01733 384562	

EMPOWER COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY - UPDATE

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: Peter Carpenter	Deadline date:
<p>It is recommended that Shareholder Cabinet Committee notes the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2020 of the Empower Peterborough Community Interest Company (CIC) and the progress of the Council's loan refinance of its loan facility to ECS Peterborough 1 LLP.</p>	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Shareholder Cabinet Committee as an annual update to the committee

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to

(a) to provide the Committee with a copy of the latest accounts for Empower Peterborough CIC, the Council's joint venture company with Empower Community Management LLP.

(b) to provide an update on the progress of the Council's Loan Facility refinance with ECS Peterborough 1.

2.2 This report is for Shareholder Cabinet Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.3.2 (a), 'To monitor performance and financial delivery of the companies, partnerships and charities set out above in line with Cabinet approved business plans by means of monthly performance monitoring and scrutiny'.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

4.1 Empower CIC

The company was formed to promote to the home owners in Peterborough, the installation of free solar PV systems on their roofs plus the arrangement of roof leases.

During the construction of the Empower Solar Asset Portfolio the home owners of Peterborough were offered this opportunity, but as the construction phase of the project was stopped earlier than intended due to a sharp fall in the Feed-in Tariff rate in 2016, this activity has now ceased. The company is not currently active, however once the long term refinancing of the Council's loan to ECS Peterborough 1 is completed, the CIC may have a role in promoting additional benefits to the residents of Peterborough through the use of the excess power generated by the solar asset portfolio. This project is currently being explored by the Empower Team

Empower CIC relationship to ECSP1

The Council has an agreed lending facility with ECS Peterborough 1, which is owned by Empower Community Management LLP and Empower Community Foundation. The Community Interest Company, Empower Peterborough CIC, is a joint venture between the Council and the directors of Empower Community Management LLP and was constituted for the purposes described above.

ECS Peterborough 1 – Loan Refinance Update

The terms of the Loan agreement have been agreed by the Council and ECS Peterborough 1 and the agreement will be signed once EY have concluded their audit of the 2019/20 financial statements. At Audit Committee on 25th January the EY Audit Partner updated the committee on the outstanding items to be concluded by the Audit Team, and the Empower Loan and its refinancing was one of those items.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 The Council has engaged Legal and Financial Advisors, Pinsent Masons and Deloitte LLP to advise on the refinancing of its loan facility with ECS Peterborough 1

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 6.1 The Shareholder Cabinet Committee is updated on the financial position of Empower Peterborough CIC

7. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 To provide Shareholder Cabinet Members with an update on the financial position of the Council's joint venture community interest company, Empower Peterborough CIC and the progress of the refinancing of the Council's loan to ECS Peterborough 1

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 None

9. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications to this report as its purpose is to provide an update to the Committee

Legal Implications

- 9.2 There are no legal implications to this report as its purpose is to provide an update to the Committee

Equalities Implications

- 9.3 There are no equalities implications to this report as its purpose is to provide an update to the Committee

Carbon Impact Assessment

- 9.5 There are no Carbon Impacts of this report as its purpose is to provide an update to the Committee

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 10.1 Cabinet Report SEPT20/CAB/31

11. APPENDICES

- 11.1 Appendix 1 – the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2020 of Empower Peterborough CIC

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