

## CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL

### COMMITTEE REPORTS AND UPDATES

<b>COMMITTEE:</b>	<b>Town Hall, Assets and Services</b>		
<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 7.00pm</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>Congleton Town Hall</b>
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	<b>Town Hall Manager – Mark Worthington</b>		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>11 Low Carbon Energy Proposal for Congleton Town Hall</b>		
<b>Background</b>	<p>As part of the initiative to reduce the carbon footprint and overall energy usage at Congleton Town Hall, details of Low Carbon Energy Proposals were presented to Councillors at the Town Hall, Assets and Services Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022. These proposals were carried out by companies identified as being able to provide services to create a Net Zero Roadmap for Congleton Town Hall. Of the proposals received, one company stood out (Company B), as a possible fit for our requirements and it was agreed to investigate further their experience on previous projects, commitment to work with Congleton Town Council on this long-term project and due diligence. A third quote is in the process of being sourced to comply with the Town Council’s Financial Regulations.</p>		
<b>Update</b>	<p>Company B have worked alongside a number of organisations including a large North of England Council and Scottish Enterprise (economic development agency), to deliver numerous support projects to a range of businesses in multiple sectors.</p> <p>Company B worked with a North of England Council in respect of a Heritage Centre and developed low carbon solutions across the site. The Heritage Centre featured many listed buildings including the world's oldest piece of industrial heritage still in its original location. The area is a complicated heritage site with many listed building restrictions. Company B worked with officers of the Council to develop a decarbonisation plan focused on fabric and low carbon heat. They were subject matters experts introducing Barnsley Council to contractors and solutions which were able to enhance the recommended solution and worked within a specified capital budget. Throughout the process, Company B were accessible and focused on delivering the report within a tight timeframe. The report itself was considered and offered a range of solutions, including a heat network based on minewater. The recommendations were accepted in full by the Council and has formed the basis of the Heritage Centre's decarbonisation plan and part of the recent levelling up fund bids.</p>		

	<p>Officers of the Council stated that Company B were excellent partners, who listened to their needs and ambition, but ensured they were pragmatic and deliverable. They would work with Company B again.</p> <p>Working alongside Scottish Enterprise, Company B focussed on energy efficiency, low and zero carbon energy supply options, feasibility studies on energy projects, and option appraisals for renewables. Examples include the delivery of a 5-year carbon management plan for a food and drink business which laid out a clear decarbonisation pathway for the business. Following recommendations in the plan, the business invested in biomass and solar photovoltaic systems and have continued to invest and improve, leading to a near Net Zero position now, an approach that has resulted in increased business with key supermarket clients. Feedback was that Company B delivered detailed, practical advice that was well received, using their experience and expertise to provide in depth technical reports and common-sense recommendations tailored to the needs of each business. Company B were also described as a 'safe pair of hands', with no concerns using them to deliver work on behalf of Scottish Enterprise.</p>
<p><b>Decision Requested</b></p>	<p>1: To receive the current Low Carbon Energy Proposal report, whilst awaiting the final quote in accordance with Financial Regulations.</p> <p>2: Once the final quote has been received, a recommendation to Council to approve a spend of up to £4000 + VAT from Ear Marked Reserves to obtain the services of the Net Zero Road Map specialist.</p>