



RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED POWERS OUTLINED IN THE CONSTITUTION – Part 3 Section 16

DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION Strategic Director of Place
TAKEN BY:
PORTFOLIO AREA: Growth and Development

SUBJECT: Supply and installation of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays on the roofs of Blackburn Technology Management Centre, Blackburn Enterprise Centre, Darwen Leisure Centre, Blackburn Leisure Centre, Witton Park Arena and the Data Centre, as part of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme.

1. DECISION

To appoint U Energy (Yorkshire) Ltd to supply and install solar photovoltaic arrays at the above sites

2. REASON FOR DECISION

An invitation to supply and install solar PV arrays on the roofs of six buildings was advertised as an open tender on The Chest, the northwest procurement hub. Seven submissions were received, of which six were compliant bids.

The bids were evaluated on a 70% price and 30% quality basis, which included social value (5%).

Contractor	U Energy (Yorkshire) Ltd	Contractor 2	Contractor 3	Contractor 4	Contractor 5	Contractor 6
Total Score	94%	62%	62%	65%	60%	56%
Ranking	1	2	3	4	5	6

3. BACKGROUND

The project is part of a package of schemes funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide from the public sector estate.

The installation of solar PV arrays enables the generation of electricity from sunlight, a renewable and free resource. This reduces the demand for grid electricity by the building, cutting bills and the amount of carbon dioxide (CO2) emitted in connection with energy consumption. The arrays have been sized to meet building load and ensure that little, if any, electricity is exported to the grid. It is estimated that the arrays will, in total, generate 438,500 kWh (13% of requirement), saving around £60,000 in electricity bills and 92 tonnes CO2 per annum. The last is a small, but significant contribution towards the Council's goal of carbon neutrality by 2030. Payback is just over 5 years.

Roof survey reports indicate that the additional weight of the array can be accommodated at each site. This exercise is repeated by the contractor when the scheme design has been finalised and the reports submitted to the Council for approval.

Mounting is either a ballast system on flat roofs or a clamp system on metal seamed roofs. There should be no reason to compromise roof integrity.

Solar arrays are relatively trouble-free installations and the panels should remain operational for at least 25 years, albeit with a minor annual degradation year on year. Maximum warranties have been specified to reduce the maintenance burden of replacing elements, such as inverters, that have shorter lifespans. The selected contractor has offered the following:

Panels-product	15 years
Panels -power	25 years
Inverters	12 years
Optimiser	25 years
Mounting system(s)	10 years
Generation meter	20 years
Workmanship	5 years

Electrical equipment requires annual service checks. The cost is relatively low (£900 per site pa) and has been capitalised for the first two years after installation.

There are no issues from the Council's insurers in respect of installing solar panels as proposed to the Council owned buildings. Blackburn College has approved the installation on their site as building owners and has advised their insurers of the proposals. There will be a cost for Works In Progress cover, to be advised when the scheme has been finalised.

Applications for Prior Approval have been submitted for 5 sites and a full application for the sixth, the Data Centre.

4. KEY ISSUES AND RISKS

There key issues are delivery within the timescales set by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme grant and securing planning permission. The deadline for completion of grant-funded projects is the end of September 2021. This risk will be managed through the contract specification. The contractor proposes to operate two teams, installing at multiple sites simultaneously to meet the programme timescales. The applications for planning permission and prior approval will be considered by the Planning Committee on 15th July. Three of the arrays will be visible only from above the building. The other three are on pitched roofs and will be visible from street-level. Every effort has been taken to minimise the impact and avoid directly facing on to the highway. It is hoped, however, that the visible arrays will demonstrate the Council's commitment to energy efficiency and renewable energy.

5. OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

The scheme is part of an approved grant application. There is no option for a change of approach without prior approval.

The decision to award the contract is based on the completed tender evaluation. The tender figure of £ £302,499 falls within the budget estimate for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme, for which a capital grant has been allocated and was approved by the Executive Board on 11th March 2021.

6. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of the officer with delegation and the any Member who has been consulted, and note of any dispensation granted should be recorded below:

VERSION: 1

CONTACT OFFICER:	Gwen Kinloch
DATE:	23 rd June 2021
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:	Tender Evaluation

Signed:



Director: Simon Jones

Date: 24 June 2021