



**SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL**

# Officer Delegated Decision

23 September 2024

Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive  
and S151 Officer



## Grantham Meres Leisure Centre – Award of Contract for Solar PV Installation

This Officer Delegated Decision (ODD) report seeks approval to award a contract for the supply and installation of Solar Photovoltaic (PV) panels at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre utilising funding received from the Swimming Pool Support Fund (Phase II).

### Contact

Michael Chester, Team Leader – Leisure, Parks and Open Spaces

 [Michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk](mailto:Michael.chester@southkesteven.gov.uk)

<b>Decision made by:</b>	Richard Wyles
<b>Decision:</b>	To award a contract to Leisure Energy Ltd for the supply and installation of Solar PV panels
<b>Public or Exempt:</b>	Public with the exemption of appendix 1
<b>Reasons for exemption:</b>	Appendix 1 includes information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person/organisation
<b>Conflicts of interest:</b>	No
<b>Policy compliant:</b>	Yes
<b>Details of delegation:</b>	The Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer is authorised under at Part 3 (c) for Delegated Powers to Officers, item 28 (Tendering) of the constitution to accept tenders and award contracts to contractors on behalf of the Council in the following circumstances: a) Following a tender process strictly in accordance with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Regulations. b) For carrying out works and/or the provision of goods and/or services.

## 1. Implications

Taking into consideration implications relating to finance and procurement, legal and governance, risk and mitigation, health and safety, diversity and inclusion, safeguarding, staffing, community safety, mental health and wellbeing and the impact on the Council's declaration of a climate change emergency, the following implications have been identified:

### ***Finance***

- 1.1 The Council have been awarded £399,000 funding from Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (Phase II) for additional Solar PV at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.
- 1.2 Under normal circumstances a contract of this value would need to be tendered in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, however due to the tight timescales involved with this project and the claiming of funding from Sport England, this would risk the project not being delivered on time. Therefore, as there are no appropriate compliant frameworks available, an exception request has been approved for a direct award to Leisure Energy Ltd for this project.

Completed by: **Richard Wyles, Deputy Chief Executive and S151 Officer**

### ***Procurement***

- 1.3 A contract of this value would need to be tendered in line with the councils Contract Procedure Rules, however, due to the tight timescales and the proposed framework being non-compliant, it is recommended to Direct Award this piece of work.
- 1.4 The contract value is under the works threshold and would be a low risk of challenge.

Completed by: **Helen Baldwin, Procurement Lead**

### ***Legal and Governance***

- 1.5 Cabinet were made aware of the successful award of funding through the Swimming Pool Support Fund (Phase II) administered by Sport England on 06 February 2024, and agreed to accept the funding to install additional solar PV panels at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre.
- 1.6 Cabinet also received an update on the decarbonisation projects being undertaken at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre on 09 July 2024 where they approved a delegation to the Deputy Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, to utilise a framework in order to direct award to a contractor to supply and install Solar PV at the leisure centre.

- 1.7 As there were no compliant frameworks available to use to ensure that the project was able to be successfully delivered on time, an exception request has been approved by the Deputy Chief Executive which is in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Completed by: **Graham Watts, Assistant Director of Governance and Public Protection and Monitoring Officer**

## **2. The Purpose of the Report**

- 2.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2024 to 2027 contains the key priorities of 'Connecting Communities' and 'Sustainable South Kesteven'. As part of which, the Council is committed to improving the health and wellbeing of our residents by investing in a sustainable leisure offer, and implementing energy efficiencies across the corporate estate, including solar panels.
- 2.2 The Council were successful in their application of funding from Sport England Swimming Pool Support Fund (Phase II) and were awarded £399,000 towards the cost of additional Solar PV at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre which was accepted at a meeting of The Cabinet on 06 February 2024.
- 2.3 As part of the grant conditions, all successful projects will need to be delivered and the funding claimed before 31 March 2025. Payment of the Phase II funding will only be released on receipt of a claim form, with evidence of any award conditions being satisfied, alongside supporting invoices for work completed. Sport England reserve the right to reclaim any unspent grant funding.
- 2.4 Following the work previously undertaken by Leisure Energy Ltd which highlighted additional Solar PV as an energy conservation measure, Leisure Energy Ltd were commissioned to undertake the detailed design works to bring the project to cost certainty.
- 2.5 Officers have explored the use of potential frameworks to deliver the project within the given timescales however there was no suitable framework to use for a direct award procurement route and should a mini competition be used this would've been too time consuming and the risk the project not being delivered on time. Therefore, Leisure Energy Ltd are the preferred contractor to direct award a contract for this project as they specialise in leisure centre decarbonisation projects.

## **3. Available Options Considered**

- 3.1 The Council could decide not to direct award a contract and go to open market tender, however Welland Procurement advised that an open tender process would conclude in December, which would delay the project due to the open market process and create a high risk of the project not meeting the deadlines set out in the grant funding conditions.

#### **4. Preferred Option**

- 4.1 To award a contract to Leisure Energy Ltd to supply and install additional Solar PV panels at Grantham Meres Leisure Centre, utilising the funding awarded by Sport England through the Swimming Pool Support Fund (Phase II).

#### **5. Reasons for the Decision(s)**

- 5.1 Procurement advice has been obtained from Welland Procurement who have advised that due to the strict timescales involved and there being no compliant direct ward framework available, the Council could direct award this to a contractor of their choice.

#### **6. Appendices**

- 6.1 Exempt Appendix 1 – Leisure Energy – Grantham Meres Proposal Document.

Signed by: **Richard Wyles**

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Dated: **23 September 2024**