

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO CABINET

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	17th November, 2010
3.	Title:	Photovoltaic Panels on 8 Rotherham Schools
4.	Directorate:	Environment and Development Services

5. Summary

In partnership with Nationwide Solar, Rotherham Council intends to fit large arrays of photovoltaic panels on 8 schools in Rotherham:

School	PV Size (kW)	Projected Energy Output (kWh / yr)
Anston Greenlands Primary	33	27,000
Anston Hillcrest Infants	15	12,300
Anston Hillcrest Junior	19	15,500
Thrybergh Primary	16	13,100
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary	26	21,300
Rockingham Primary	33	27,000
Greasbrough Junior & Infant	33	27,000
St Bedes Primary	22	18,000

The capital costs will be covered by Low Carbon Building Grants (50%) and Nationwide Solar (50%). Nationwide Solar will claim the Feed in Grants (set for 25 years by Government) for total kWh generated. Schools will receive free electricity and 10% of the Feed in Tariff.

6. Recommendations

1. Cabinet approve the schools PV project.

7. Proposals and Details

Feed in Tariff (FITS) was introduced in April 2010 to incentivise small scale low carbon electricity generation (less than 5MW). The scheme guarantees a set amount that can be claimed for every kW generated over the next 25 years. The tariff up to 2013 for PV panels are:

Yr 1: 1/4/10 – 31/3/11	Yr 2: 1/4/11 – 31/3/12	Yr 3: 1/4/12 – 31/3/13
31.4 p/kWh	31.4 p/kWh	28.7 p/kWh

The Low Carbon Buildings Grant scheme allowed public organisations to apply for up to 50% of the installation costs for renewable micro-generation systems. Applications were submitted for 62 Rotherham Schools before the scheme closed on 24 May 2010. Of the 62 applications 8 schools succeeded in securing grants:

School	Low Carbon Building Grant
Anston Greenlands Primary School	£85,892.41
Anston Hillcrest Primary School	£39,768.82
Anston Hillcrest Junior School	£50,051.84
Thrybergh Primary School	£42,189.58
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary School	£67,897.12
Rockingham Primary School	£85,892.41
Greasbrough Junior & Infant School	£85,890.91
St Bedes Primary School	£57,614.11

Projects must be complete and grants claimed by 28 February 2011. Department of Energy and Climate Change announced in September 2010 that Low Carbon Building Grants and FITS could be utilised on the same project.

Nationwide Solar will install, maintain, insure and monitor the PV systems at no cost to the school or RMBC. Capital costs will be re-claimed by Nationwide Solar by claiming the FITS.

Agreement for the project will be sought through Head Teachers; Governors; Education; Capital Strategy, Strategic Leadership Team and Cabinet. All lease documents will be checked by the Legal Department and signed by Assistant Director of Legal Services.

8. Finance

Projected figures show a substantial annual saving on electricity bills:

School	PV Size (kW)	Average p/kWh Utility Rate (p/kWh)	Projected Energy Output (kWh / yr)	Projected Saving (Av. 20010/11 contract price)
Anston Greenlands Primary	33	8.719	27,000	£2354.13
Anston Hillcrest Primary	15	7.308	12,300	£898.88
Anston Hillcrest Junior	19	10.131	15,500	£1570.30
Thrybergh Primary	16	10.131	13,100	£1327.16
Rawmarsh Sandhill Primary	26	10.131	21,300	£2157.90

Rockingham Primary	33	10.131p	27,000	£2735.37
Greasbrough Junior & Infant	33	7.720	27,000	£2084.40
St Bedes Primary	22	10.131p	18,000	£1823.58

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9. Risks and Uncertainties

There is a risk that Government will cancel the Feed in Tariff. The risk is primarily taken by Nationwide Solar who is investing the capital in the project.

Projections of kWh output and potential financial savings are based on light level analysis carried out by Nationwide Solar engineers and are to be taken with caution. Actual output is weather/light level dependant.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

Reducing energy consumption saves money and contributes to National and RMBC CO₂ reduction targets.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Consultation and authorisation is being sought from all interested parties.

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