Emergency Powers Decision Report

Power Purchase Agreement for Wrigley Head Solar Farm – appointment of Ovo Energy

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Creating a Better Place Team
Directorate: Place & Economic Growth
Report Author: Andrew Hunt, Green Energy & Sustainability Manager
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Date of Decision: 2nd November 2026

1. Power to make the decision

The decision is being taken under the authorisation contained in Section 9C – Delegations to Specific Officers of Part 3 (Responsibility for Functions) of the Council Constitution for the Chief Executive to take any emergency decisions in respect of the Council's executive functions which cannot be delayed until the next Cabinet meeting.

2. Decision Sought

To award a Power Purchase Agreement for the exported electricity generated by Wrigley Head Solar Farm to Ovo Energy, and to approve an exemption from the Counci's Contract Procedure Rules to enable the Council to begin receiving revenue income from the PPA as soon as possible.

3. Reason for urgency

The Council's solar farm at Wrigley Head has not yet been energised and so cannot begin to generate revenue income from the Council until a Power Purchase Agreement with an energy company is in place. Informal market research has identified Ovo Energy as a provider of good value PPAs. The time the Council would take to carry out a competitive procurement process would result in the Council losing more revenue income than could be gained from the marginal extra value which could be secured by such a process.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

Wrigley Head Solar Farm will remain inactive for a protracted period and so will not be able to start generating revenue income for the Council.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

The Council is losing in theory over £300 per day on average whilst the solar farm is not generating a revenue income through an appropriate PPA.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 13 October 2026
Comments

This report seeks approval for an exemption to the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to enable the direct award of a Power Purchase Agreement to Ovo Energy. The arrangement is expected to generate net revenue income of approximately £188k over the 18-month contract period. The income is anticipated to commence in 2027/28 and will contribute towards operational costs, with the majority available to support wider Council priorities.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name: Alex Bougatef
Date: 13 October 2026
Comments:

The exercise of emergency powers should be undertaken in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council. However, the Council has not yet appointed a Leader or Deputy Leader for the current municipal year so it is not possible to consult them. In addition, there is no certainty about when a Leader or Deputy Leader will be appointed as the Council has failed at successive meetings to do so. For the reasons given in the report an urgent decision relating to the report is required and it cannot await the appointment of a Leader and Deputy Leader at some undetermined future date.