Emergency Powers Decision Report

Strategic Energy Partnership – Womble Bond Dickinson further appointment

Decision Maker: Chief Executive

Service Area: Place
Directorate: 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 appoint Womble Bond Dickinson to a further commission at a cost of £100,000+VAT supporting the procurement of a Strategic Energy Partner for the Borough. This commission will be funded by a £100,000 Advanced Zoning Programme (AZP) grant from DESNZ.

3. Reason for urgency

This appointment is needed to support the current live procurement process for a Strategic Energy Partner for the borough.

4. Risk(s) of not taking the decision

The main risk is of a failed procurement due to lack of sufficient Legal support.

5. Financial impact if decision not taken forward

The failure of a procurement which has been supported by £1.6m of grant funding from the GMCA Local Net Zero Accelerator and further grant funding from the Green Heat Network Fund, plus the £100K AZP grant funding covering this specific appointment.

6. Statutory Officer clearances

a. Section 151 Officer

Name Lee Walsh
Date 7 October 2026
Comments

This report seeks approval to appoint Womble Bond Dickinson to provide additional legal support for the procurement of a Strategic Energy Partner at a cost of £100k. The additional commission will support the ongoing procurement process and delivery of this strategic project.

The commission will be fully funded from a £100k Advanced Zoning Programme (AZP) grant awarded by DESNZ. As all costs will be met from external grant funding, there are no additional revenue implications for the Council.

b. Monitoring Officer

Name
Date
Comments