

General Exception Procedure Notice Pursuant to Standing Order 17 and reg 10(1) and 10(3) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangement) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Directorate:

Resources

Confidential or Exempt [*please state category of exempt information*]

No

Decision Taker: Member Body or Officer [*if officer please give name and title*]

Cabinet

Proposed Date for Decision/ Time Period

25 November 2021

Summary of Matter

The Council currently purchases its gas through a framework contract in place with ESPO. That arrangement ceases on 31st March 2022.

The Council does not have the in-house expertise or resources to monitor the gas (or electricity) markets to identify best value options for energy purchase, and has used ESPO to purchase both gas and electricity since 2012. The recommendation within the Cabinet Report will be to continue that arrangement.

The framework contract allows ESPO flexibility in setting the price of energy within a long-term hedging strategy, driving efficiencies for users of the framework. Flexible contracts of this nature require large volumes to operate effectively. By aggregating these volumes into a single supply with one supplier, significant economies of scale are achieved resulting in reduced suppliers' margins and minimises avoidable costs

ESPO will shortly be opening negotiations on bulk gas purchasing for the period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2027 and therefore require a decision from participating authorities, including Warwickshire County Council, to commit to the revised framework so that it can approach those negotiations in the most effective way for all participants.

Proposed Decision

That Cabinet agrees to the Council entering into a framework contract for the purchase of gas through ESPO's Gas Framework, for the period April 2023 – March 2027 on terms and conditions considered acceptable, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Property, to the Strategic Director for Resources.

If the proposed decision is made, would it be contrary to or not wholly in accordance with the policy framework or budget?

No

List of documents/reports provided

Draft Cabinet Report on 'WCC Gas Contract Renewal' This General Exception Procedure Notice

List of Background Papers

None

Is consultation proposed Yes/ No [if yes, say who and how]

No

Members of the public wishing to make comments on this matter should write to:

Monitoring Officer Warwickshire County Council Shire Hall Warwick CV34 4RL

<u>monitoringofficer@warwickshire.gov.uk</u>

Comments should be made by	24 November 2021
-----------------------------------	------------------

Office Use only

Directorate Contact [please give name and number]

Louise Saunders, 01926 412 625

To be completed by Member Services

Copy Notice served	Date
Councillor Adrian Warwick, Chair of Resources and Fire & Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Committee	16 November 2021
Copy Notice published on website and available at the offices of the Council¹	17 November 2021

¹ At the time of issue of this notice, access to the offices of the Council are restricted due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic measures. Availability on the website is considered sufficient in light of government guidance and the provisions of the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulation 2020. Paper copies can be posted on request