

## **Extract of draft minutes of Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee – 26 February 2024**

### **Grid Capacity Review**

The committee received and considered a report of the Climate and Ecology Policy Officer, which presented the findings from the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee Task and Finish Group inquiry into the impacts, challenges and opportunities of grid constraints and the associated reforms. The report included a set of recommendations for how the council could best position itself to mitigate the risks and exploit the opportunities with regard to how the network was planned, governed, invested in, reflected in the council's policy and decision-making and strengthening relationships with network operators.

It was highlighted that the review had been a useful exercise which had enabled the consideration of key issues, with discussion with both internal and external representatives. The review had identified a series of recommendations for progressing consideration of the issues. Thanks were expressed to all those that had been involved.

The Chairman highlighted the recommendations set out within the report and in addition requested an additional recommendation for continued annual scrutiny review of this area, a councillor webinar and visit to Canford Renewable Energy post May 2024 and for the briefing with MPs to be undertaken through a meeting, to allow councillors and officers to directly brief them on the issues and difficulties faced with the grid infrastructure and the issues raised during the review.

It was proposed by B Goringe seconded by B Heatley

### **Recommendation to Cabinet**

That the recommendations of the Grid Capacity Task & Finish Group, set out within section 4 of the cover report to the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee, on the council's future approach to the strategic risks and opportunities regarding the electricity network, be approved, subject to the following:

- i) That, in respect of recommendation 6, MPs be invited to a meeting to enable councillors and officers to directly brief them on the issues and difficulties faced with the grid infrastructure and the issues raised during the review
- ii) That an additional recommendation (7) be included – That the Place and Resources Scrutiny Committee monitor grid provision in Dorset and associated issues including emerging policy and regulatory reform, on an annual basis
- iii) That a councillor webinar be provided post May 2024 regarding grid capacity, including technologies and the future impact on planning and energy provision
- iv) That a councillor site visit be arranged post May 2024 to Canford Renewable Energy.