

**Report of: Chair of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

<b>Meeting of</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Ward(s)</b>
Executive	21 April 2016	All
<b>Delete as appropriate</b>		Non-exempt

## **Subject: Community Energy – Recommendations from the Environment & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee**

### **1. Synopsis**

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the recommendations of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, following completion of the Community Energy review. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

### **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the report of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

### **3. Background**

- 3.1 In October 2014, the Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee commenced a review of Community Energy. The aim was to explore and understand the community energy options available for Islington and make recommendations on their relevance for the borough.

- 3.2 The committee heard about the benefits and risks of the different community energy models, heard about example of established projects across the UK and considered their impact on fuel poverty and energy efficiency.

## **4. Implications**

### **4.1 Financial Implications**

The proposals in the review need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

### **4.2 Legal Implications**

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

### **4.3 Environmental Implications**

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

### **4.4 Resident Impact Assessment**

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive Member response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

## **5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

- 5.1 The Community Energy Scrutiny Review heard evidence about a number of community energy schemes across the country and heard from a variety of witnesses about the various ways in which community energy schemes and council schemes could be undertaken.
- 5.2 The Committee hoped the recommendations would improve community energy work in the borough to improve outcomes for residents.