

Report Author: Paul Bourgeois
 Telephone+ 07715 408407

OFFICER DECISION TITLE: Financing and interim recruitment of “A” to assist with Greater South East Local Energy Hub operational set up, recruitment and stakeholder engagement
NAME OF OFFICER EXERCISING DELEGATED POWERS: The Chief Executive of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
DATE OF OFFICER DECISION: 01/05/2018

Responsible Director:	<i>Martin Whiteley, Chief Executive</i>
Is this a public report? If a key decision, it will be a public report and will be published on the CA website.	No
Does the report have any annex that contains exempt information?	No

Decision taken	<p>The Chief Executive has agreed to appoint “A” on an interim basis for a period of three months to support the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) in the creation of the Greater South East Local Energy Hub amounting to a maximum cost of £49,000 per annum pro rata plus on costs (cost to met by BEIS Grant already received)</p> <p>There are no legal implications relating to this interim recruitment.</p>
Authorisation (<i>delete as appropriate</i>)	<p>This decision has been taken under delegated authority of the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive is delegated authority to take decisions up to £500k subject to any such decisions being reported to the next Board meeting of the Combined Authority.</p>
Background Information	<p>The Combined Authority is to establish and pioneer one of only five Local Energy Hubs in England. Chosen by the Greater South East LEPs (11) which include a 16-county area, including Greater London, and endorsed by the Department for Energy, Business and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) the Combined Authority would be</p>

	<p>the vanguard local energy organisation in the area.</p> <p>The Hub concept was proposed by BEIS in September 2017 following the award of Local Energy Strategy development grants in April 2017 and an assessment that local energy infrastructure projects were being constrained and needed dedicated support and resources. As Accountable Body the CPCA received £1.29m in March 2018 to operate the Hub for two years.</p> <p>BEIS recognise that without the Local Energy Strategies in place an evidenced based approach to delivery planning cannot be achieved. On this basis BEIS have asked that the Hub set up and team recruitment process is prioritised in the first eight weeks in anticipation of the strategies to inform delivery. The Local Energy East project is most progressed in this regard in the Hub area therefore our area-based priority list of constrained grid areas affecting housing growth, electrification of transport systems and commercial sites will be available first to embed in the delivery plan.</p> <p>The proposed Hub team of eight will consist of technical specialists and project managers led by a Regional Director who will seek to commission feasibility studies related to infrastructure projects and secure funding to deliver them.</p>
Alternative options considered.	Should the Combined Authority not enlist the support of “A”, the Head of Sustainability will have sole responsibility for planning, instigating, co-ordinating and delivering the initial set up, operational initiation and recruitment of the team without dedicated or experienced support. This could lead to significant delays in all aspects and potential loss of reputation with the Hub Board and consistent LEPs and Local Authorities across the Greater South East area.
Consultation	The decision to provide resources necessary to set up and operate the Hub was given formal approval at the Combined Authority Board meeting on the 28 th February 2018.
Declarations / Conflicts of Interests (only if the decision falls under the ‘Express Authorisation’ category)	None
Supporting documentation	None

Officer signature	MARTIN WHITELEY	Date 1/05/2018
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Once signed please file in the electronic file Documents/Governance/ office decision notice and enter details in the register.

If a public report, pass to Democratic Services and we will arrange publication.