

Basford & Bestwood Area Committee- 12th September 2018

Title of paper:	Robin Hood Energy update	
Director(s)/ Corporate Director(s):	Andy Vaughan, Corporate Director Commercial & Operations	Wards affected: All
Report author(s) and contact details:	Esme Macauley Esme.macauley@nottinghamcity.gov.uk 0115 8763382	
Other colleagues who have provided input:	n/a	
Date of consultation with Portfolio Holder(s) (if relevant)	n/a	
Relevant Council Plan Key Theme:		
Strategic Regeneration and Development		<input type="checkbox"/>
Schools		<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and Housing		<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Services		<input type="checkbox"/>
Energy, Sustainability and Customer		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jobs, Growth and Transport		<input type="checkbox"/>
Adults, Health and Community Sector		<input type="checkbox"/>
Children, Early Intervention and Early Years		<input type="checkbox"/>
Leisure and Culture		<input type="checkbox"/>
Resources and Neighbourhood Regeneration		<input type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/service users):		
Robin Hood Energy seeks to update the Area Committee on recent performance and report the activity taken to tackle fuel poverty and environmental issues.		
Recommendation(s):		
1	To note the information contained in the presentation and discuss its relevance for Basford & Bestwood.	
2	To offer comments or feedback to Robin Hood Energy to help benefit the citizens of Basford & Bestwood.	

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 As a Council Plan priority 'Tackle fuel poverty by setting up a not-for-profit energy company to sell energy at the lowest possible price to Nottingham people', Robin Hood Energy seeks to update the Area Committee on recent performance and report the activity to tackle fuel poverty and environmental issues.

1.2 The Area Committee is asked to note the information, discuss its relevance for Basford & Bestwood and to offer Robin Hood Energy its comments or feedback.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

2.1 Robin Hood Energy was established as a result of the Council Plan priority to:

“Tackle fuel poverty by setting up a not-for-profit energy company to sell energy at the lowest possible price to Nottingham people”.

2.2 First launched in 2015 Robin Hood Energy was the UK's first publicly owned, not-for-profit energy company set up since 1948.

2.3 After three years of trading the company now has 115,000 customers from across England, Scotland and Wales.

2.4 Part of the reason for Robin Hood Energy's rapid growth has been its strategy of growing through 'white-label' partnerships; 'white label' is a service produced by one company (the producer) that other companies rebrand. Robin Hood Energy delivers the energy services for nine white label partners, including:

- EBICO (National)
- Angelic (Islington)
- Great North Energy (Doncaster)
- The LECCY (Liverpool)
- RAM energy (Derby)
- White Rose Energy (Leeds)
- Your Energy Sussex (Sussex)
- CitizEn Energy (Southampton)
- Fosse (Leicester)

2.5 The company accounts for 2017/18 have been independently audited and show that Robin Hood Energy has made an operating surplus of £202,000. It's a big achievement given that most energy companies take at least 5 years to get to this stage.

2.6 The company will use their strengthened trading position to develop three initiatives:

1. To voluntarily enter arrangements to offer the Warm Home Discount for older people and people on low incomes.
2. To offer new green tariffs using renewable electricity certified as being provided by UK based Wind and Solar projects.
3. To protect prices for Nottingham residents on prepayment meters and introduce further discounts for Nottingham citizens to help tackle fuel poverty.

2.7 Supporting prepayment customers remains a company priority – because prepayment customers are most likely to experience fuel poverty. The independent Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) stated that Robin Hood Energy's socially

conscious pricing structure has enabled Nottingham prepayment customers to save £87 per year.

- 2.8 By introducing lower pricing for prepayment customers Robin Hood Energy has revolutionised the whole UK energy market – driving down prices, benefitting millions of people and prompting Ofgem (Office for Gas and Energy Markets) to introduce a price cap across the whole sector to keep prepayment tariffs consistently low.
- 2.9 To help tackle fuel poverty in Nottingham, Robin Hood Energy offers customers the chance to get £20 off their bill. The company also works with a Nottingham food bank to provide emergency fuel vouchers for vulnerable people in crisis situations – people in real hardship who are often forced to choose between food and fuel.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 None.

4 FINANCE COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 None relating to this report and recommendations.

5 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 None relating to this report and recommendations.

6 STRATEGIC ASSETS & PROPERTY COLLEAGUE COMMENTS (FOR DECISION RELATING TO ALL PROPERTY ASSETS AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) (AREA COMMITTEE REPORTS ONLY)

- 6.1 Not relevant to this report and its recommendations.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

- 7.1 An EIA is not required.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

- 8.1 None.

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

- 9.1 Nottingham City Council Plan 2015-2019 (Revised November 2016)
Robin Hood Energy Audited Company Accounts
Institute of Public Policy Research (IPPR) Community and local energy: Challenges and opportunities 2016