

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

# Cabinet (Resources) Panel

## 28 March 2017

|  |  |                                      |  |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Report title</b>                            | The Charter for Sustainable British Steel          |                                      |  |
| <b>Decision designation</b>                    | AMBER  |                                      |  |
| <b>Cabinet member with lead responsibility</b> | Councillor Roger Lawrence<br>Leader of the Council |                                      |  |
| <b>Key decision</b>                            | No   |                                      |  |
| <b>In forward plan</b>                         | No   |                                      |  |
| <b>Wards affected</b>                          | All  |                                      |  |
| <b>Accountable director</b>                    | Mark Taylor, Director of Finance                   |                                      |  |
| <b>Originating service</b>                     | Procurement  |                                      |  |
| <b>Accountable employee(s)</b>                 | Andy Moran   | Service Director Commercial Services |  |
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| <b>Report to be/has been considered by</b>     |  |                                      |  |

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### Recommendations for action or decision:

The Cabinet (Resources) Panel is recommended to:

1. Approve the Council becoming a signatory to the Charter for Sustainable British Steel.

## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1 This report seeks approval for the Council to become a signatory to the Charter for Sustainable British Steel.

## **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 The Council has been approached by North Lincolnshire Council (see Appendix 1) to become a signatory to the Charter for Sustainable British Steel. This Charter has been developed by the UK Steel trade association EEF.
- 2.2 The Charter supports the responsible sourcing of steel reinforcement that meets the Building Research Establishment (BRE) standard BES 6001.

## **3.0 Charter Pledges**

- 3.1 Signatories of this Charter pledge to purchase carbon steel reinforcement for concrete only from vendors that adhere to the Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing (BES 6001), as recognised by BRE as an associated independent third-party certification scheme. The Council will include this requirement where appropriate in its specifications for construction and highways contracts.

- 3.2 Signatories of this charter recognise that:

I. The manufacture of British steel products makes a significant contribution to the British economy. Exports of British steel were worth £4.9bn in 2013 and contributed £2.4bn to the UK's balance of trade. The sector's overall contribution to the UK economy is worth around £9.5bn a year.

II. The British steel industry employs approximately 20,000 people and additionally supports domestic businesses and employees in the supply chain, with the associated knock on benefits for the national economy generated by tax revenues.

III. British steel is a quality product manufactured with high production values.

IV. BES 6001 certification means the steel has been manufactured in a sustainable and responsibly sourced manner and can be traced back to its raw materials.

V. Using steel manufactured to BES 6001 standards supports public and private bodies to reach sustainability targets.

VI. There are significant benefits that arise when money invested in public and private projects is recirculated within the British economy, via the purchase of domestically produced products.

VII. British businesses and organisations have a duty to lead the way in supporting sustainable, British steel.

#### **4.0 Financial implications**

- 4.1 As a result of becoming a signatory to the Charter for Sustainable British Steel, the Council pledges to purchase carbon steel reinforcement for concrete only from vendors that adhere to the Framework Standard for Responsible Sourcing.  
[MH/20032017/B]

#### **5.0 Legal implications**

- 5.1 In accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations the Council can take into account the environmental and social implications of production of products.  
[TS/15032017/W]

#### **6.0 Equalities implications**

- 6.1 None.

#### **7.0 Environmental implications**

- 7.1 The BRE standard BES 6001 has been published to enable construction product manufacturers to ensure and then prove that their products have been made with constituent materials that have been responsibly sourced. The standard describes a framework for the organisational governance, supply chain management and environmental and social aspects that must be addressed in order to ensure the responsible sourcing of construction products.

#### **8.0 Human Resources Implications**

- 8.1 None

#### **9.0 Corporate landlord implications**

- 9.1 None.

#### **10.0 Schedule of background papers**

- 10.1 None.

#### **11.0 Recommendation**

- 11.1 Cabinet (Resources) Panel approves the Council becoming a signatory to the Charter for Sustainable British Steel.