



***SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT
COMMITTEE - ENERGY SUB-COMMITTEE***

2.00 PM MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

All mobile telephones to be switched to silent for the duration of the meeting

Webcasting/Hybrid Meetings:

This meeting may be filmed for live or subsequent broadcast via the Council's Internet Site. By participating you are consenting to be filmed and the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes.

1. Welcome and Chairs Announcements
2. Declarations of Interests
3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (*Pages 3 - 8*)
4. Update on Regional Energy Strategy Delivery (*Pages 9 - 20*)
5. Forward Work Programme (*Pages 21 - 22*)
6. Urgent Items
Any urgent items at the discretion of the Chairperson pursuant to Section 100BA(6)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

W.Bramble
Chief Executive

**Civic Centre
Port Talbot**

Tuesday, 24 September 2024

Committee Membership:

Chairperson: Councillor J.Harvey

Councillors: P.Miller, A.Owen, A.Lewis and J.Hurley

National Park

Representatives: S.Alderman and L.Bickerton

South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Energy Sub-Committee

(Via Microsoft Teams)

Members Present:

13 May 2024

Chairperson: Councillor P.Miller

Councillors: A.Owen, A.Lewis, J.Hurley, J.Harvey and R.Sinnett

National Park Representatives: S.Alderman and L.Bickerton

Officers In Attendance: K.Jones, S.Brennan, K.Tillman, G.Bacon, A.Moss, R.Moxey, K.Davies, S.Aldred-Jones, G.Jones, D.West, B.Suddell and C.Plowman

External Advisors: V.Camp and E.Barlow

1. **Chairs Announcements**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interests**

The following declaration of interest was received:

Liz Bickerton

General declaration - As she is a freelance consultant, who undertakes a number of evaluations for third sector organisations, some involving energy efficiency. Energy efficiency is one of the priorities of the Energy Sub Committee

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2024, were approved as an accurate record.

4. **Costed De-carbonisation Delivery Plans and the Funding Challenge for Net Zero 2030**

Members were provided with information on the current position regarding costed decarbonisation delivery plans for Net Zero, and the wider funding challenges associated with this.

The circulated report informed the Committee of the approach taken by Swansea Council, following direction from the Welsh Audit Office (WAO), in order to meet Welsh Governments Net Zero ambition. It was noted that Councils needed to fully cost their action plans and ensure that they were aligned with Medium-Term Financial Plans.

Officers from Swansea Council explained that they developed a high-level costed delivery plan, which was a way of monetising what the ask was going to look like. A discussion took place regarding the findings of that piece of work, which included buildings and energy, street lighting, fleet and grey fleet. It was explained that this process provided an indication of how much money would be needed to take this work forward; this was noted to be a high cost for Local Authorities.

It was expressed that Local Authorities were committed to taking this work forward in order to achieve Net Zero, however there would need to be some changes from a Welsh Government level, in order to assist them in doing so.

Officers from Carmarthenshire Council provided their experiences and confirmed that they had adopted a similar approach and had similar figures to Swansea Council.

It was stated that it would be beneficial if there was a consistent approach throughout Wales in regard to this work stream, which would allow all Local Authorities to come up with a consistent methodology. This statement was supported by Members, who expressed that the biggest benefit of doing this was around the commonalities where Councils could co-procure, as well as the ability to find priorities as a Region. It was added that it would be even more beneficial if this was carried out on a National basis.

External advisors, from Welsh Government Energy Service, highlighted that there was a climate strategy panel task and finish group set up with a focus on procurement; particularly looking at the ways in which the Energy Service could support Local Authorities going forward.

Reference was made to offsetting, and the fact that even though Councils purchase 100% renewable energy, this wasn't counted in terms of offsetting. Members expressed their frustration with this and felt that it was a missed opportunity.

Following on from the above, it was noted that Welsh Governments view was that offsetting should be the last resort, and that the focus should be on all reasonable efforts to reduce emissions. The Committee was informed that there was a team within the Welsh Government Energy Service, who were working hard on determining what offsetting might look like. In addition, there was work being undertaken to identify how the guidance could be updated; with a focus on renewables and purchasing.

Officers from Neath Port Talbot Council and Pembrokeshire Council also provided an overview of the work they were progressing. Representatives from Neath Port Talbot confirmed that in January 2024, they commissioned the Carbon Trust to assist in formulating a Net Zero costed plan; they were expecting this to be concluded by October or November 2024. Representatives from Pembrokeshire Council noted that they had taken a different approach to the other three Local Authorities and were progressing on a case-by-case basis in order to try and keep it cost neutral.

Members were provided with the perspective of Brecon Beacons National Park and the areas they were looking to address going forward. These were noted to be procurement and waste, as these were the areas in which they had the largest remaining footprint.

A discussion took place in regard to the short-term actions, including the asks of Welsh Government and the associated barriers; and what tangible steps the Energy Sub Committee can take to support the effort.

One of the barriers highlighted from Officers was the process of obtaining grant funding; in particular the timings associated with getting the schemes ready for submission and the timings in which Local Authorities must spend the grant. It was noted that if the

process was to stay the same, Councils would need more resource to be able to do this better.

It was explained that there was a piece of work that Officers were undertaking, in conjunction with the Welsh Government Energy Service, in terms of consolidating and advancing the asks from Welsh Government. It was added that a workshop would be arranged to discuss this in more detail; the outcomes of the workshop will be provided in a future meeting of the Energy Sub Committee.

The Committee were provided with a brief overview of the Net Zero Scenario Planner that was under development by the Welsh Government Energy Service. It was explained that this tool would gather data from each of the 22 Local Authorities across Wales, principally around building energy usage, street lighting and fleet. It was stated that the information will be mapped up to the year 2030, with the purpose of applying change in emissions factors from turning on certain interventions, so that Councils can identify what happens to their emissions if they implement the measures. Members were informed that for fleet and street lighting, this would be a move to electric vehicles and a switch to LED lighting; and for buildings there were a few options that essentially build from a decarbonisation only option, to add in energy efficiency measures and renewables to make this more affordable.

In terms of timelines associated with the planner, it was noted that the data request had been submitted and would be re-received by the end of June 2024. It was added that Officers would spend the summer of 2024 building the models, before running training events in September/October of 2024 to demonstrate to Local Authorities how to use the tool; following this, a summary report will be sent to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) of the overall findings, and then it would be over to each Local Authority to test the tool and run scenarios.

Following on from the overview, a discussion took place in regard to the use of a single framework for 22 Local Authorities, all with different positions; and how ever-changing technologies will also impact the use of the tool. It was acknowledged that there were going to be limitations to the tool, and the Energy Service were going to have to make some assumptions to enable to model to work at this scale; there wasn't sufficient resource to be able to produce a custom model for each Local Authority. External advisors stated that they had

customised it to try and make it as relevant as possible; however, there will be differences for each Local Authority.

Members were provided with assurances that the Energy Service would be able to assist Local Authorities with their detailed and technical feasibility review; this would feed into the scenario planner.

It was expressed that the Committee would benefit from understanding what the procurement plan for fleet would look like, and if there was visibility across the Region.

Following the discussion, the report was noted.

5. **Urgent Items**

There were no urgent items received.

CHAIRPERSON

This page is intentionally left blank

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

Energy Sub Committee

30th September 2024

Report of the Chief Executive

Report Title: Update on Regional Energy Strategy Delivery

Purpose of Report	Information
	<p>To provide Members of the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee with a progress update of the regional delivery for Energy in accordance with the SWWCJC commitment as outlined within the Well-being Objectives of the Corporate Plan with emphasis on Regional Energy.</p>
<p>Recommendation(s)</p>	<p>That Members of the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee note the progress made to date and forthcoming milestones.</p> <p>Note. The three proposed projects as outlined and detailed within the appendices of this report are for information and will subject to development, prior to seeking endorsement from the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee ahead of a decision from the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.</p>
<p>Report Author</p>	<p>Rachel Moxey Head of Economic Development and Regeneration</p> <p>Darren Thomas Head of Infrastructure & Environment</p> <p>Laura Davies Regional Energy Team</p>
<p>Finance Officer</p>	<p>Chris Moore</p>
<p>Legal Officer</p>	<p>Craig Griffiths</p>

1. Introduction & Background

The South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) has been mandated to implement a Regional Energy Strategy for the region by Welsh Government.

At the SWWCJC held on 15th March 2022, it was resolved that the South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy be adopted as the framework for the CJC's work programme with further reports to be brought forward in due course identifying how it is proposed that the strategic intent will be delivered

As part of the SWWCJC's commitments, the Corporate Plan encompasses several wellbeing objectives, with Well-being Objective 1 To collaboratively deliver the Regional Economic Delivery Plan and Regional Energy Strategy thereby improving the decarbonised economic well-being of South West Wales for our future generations. Actions have been proposed and are monitored to promote the regional delivery with the support of the Regional Energy Core Group.

The proposed actions to deliver the against the energy aspects of the Well-being 1 objective, has emphasis to the Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP): there is strong synergy and overlap between the Regional Energy Strategy and Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP).

Welsh Government have funded the development of Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) for every local authority in Wales. This follows several local authorities being pilot locations, including Pembrokeshire. The Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) are being delivered by City Science in the South-West Wales Region for Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, and Carmarthenshire.

The Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) set out the transformative steps required to transition each County's energy system towards achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. The Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) contain a series of local and regional actions.

Welsh Government have also funded for 24 months, the appointment of a Regional Energy Team consisting of an Energy Project Manager plus two Energy Project Officer posts. Whilst these posts are employed by Carmarthenshire County Council, they are a regional resource for the four local authorities.

2. Progress

The City Science Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) Reports and Technical Annexes of Carmarthenshire, NPT and Swansea have been completed. These reports are currently being translated into Welsh prior to publishing.

Each of the four Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) have been 'noted' at a respective LA Cabinet meeting:

Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC)	17 th June 2024
Swansea Council (SC)	16 th May 2024
Neath Port Talbot Council (NPT)	14 th April 2024
Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)	13 th September 2022



The Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) have been reviewed against the Regional Energy Strategy and fifty-one of the sixty-seven actions within the Regional Energy Strategy are covered by the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP). Many of the remaining actions need addressing at national level (such as changing to planning legislation, energy pricing) or are within the remit of the national/regional transport strategies.

Energy Systems Catapult are currently aggregating the data from the four Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) into a regional evidence base which is due in mid-October.

It has been agreed that the Energy Core group will take the role of the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) Regional Steering group as identified in the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP).

Together with actions gained following a recent workshop and steering group meetings the Energy Core group have reviewed and prioritised the regional actions (**Appendix A**).

These prioritised actions form the outline of a work programme for the regional energy team for the next six months. The work programme includes developing three projects, in addition to ongoing governance and sector engagement work: -

- (i) **The promotion and launch of Solar Together by iChoosr (group buying of solar PV, battery storage and EV chargers for 'able to pay' householders) across the region (Appendix B).**
- (ii) **A regional retrofit behavioural change project delivered with community energy groups. (Appendix C).**
- (iii) **Cross-boundary sharing of EV charging infrastructure pilot between LAs and wider public sector (Appendix D).**

Note. The three proposed projects as outlined and detailed within the appendices of this report are for information and will subject to development, prior to seeking endorsement from the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee ahead of a decision from the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

3. Financial Impacts

None



4. Integrated Impact Assessment

The CJC is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- **Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.**
- **Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.**
- **Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.**
- **Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage**
- **Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language**
- **Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.**
- **Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.**

In recognition of the above duties, the CJC has adopted an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Tool which allows for a 2 stage approach to be undertaken to measure any potential impact of its decisions. It is not considered that an Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) is required for this report as it does not seek a substantive policy decision from Members.

Notwithstanding this the SWWCJC Energy Sub-Committee is actively engaged in the development of the South West Wales Regional Energy Strategy – looking at developing the best way of harnessing the region’s low carbon energy potential across its on and offshore locations. This will deliver a prosperous and equitable net zero carbon economy which enhances the well-being of future generations and the region’s ecosystems, at a pace which delivers against regional and national emissions reduction targets by 2035 and 2050.

5. Workforce Impacts

Welsh Government have funded the recruitment of three new officers to support the development and delivery of the Local Area Energy Plans.

6. Legal Impacts

None.



7. Risk Management Impacts

Risks arising as part of the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) process are managed as part of programme delivery by Energy Systems Catapult.

A risk register for the overall programme may be available on request.

8. Consultation

No formal consultation required for the purpose of this report.

Note. A wide range of stakeholders are consulted as part of the development of the Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP).

9. Reasons for Proposed Decision

That Members of the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee note the progress made to date and forthcoming milestones.

10. Note. The three proposed projects as outlined and detailed within the appendices of this report are for information and will subject to development, prior to seeking endorsement from the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee ahead of a decision from the South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee.

11. Implementation of Decision

For noting only.

12. Appendices

Appendix A Prioritisation of Regional LAEP Actions for Regional Energy Team (RET)
(Draft)

Appendix B Project Outline: South West Wales Solar Together (Draft)

Appendix C Project Outline: Behavioural change project (Draft)

Appendix D Project Outline: Cross-boundary EV charging (Draft)



13. List of Background Papers

[South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Tuesday, 15th March, 2022 2.00 pm](#)

Item 5. [South West Wales Regional Energy Plan !\[\]\(5eb1325dfdc3f1cad8426726c0db51cd_img.jpg\) PDF 368 KB](#)

[South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee - Energy Sub-Committee - Monday, 13th May, 2024 2.00 pm](#)

Item 4. [Costed De-carbonisation Delivery Plans and the Funding Challenge for Net Zero 2030](#)



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council



Appendix A Prioritisation of Regional Local Area Energy Plans (LAEP) Actions for Regional Energy Team (RET) (Draft)

	Action	Estimated Budget	Lead	Role of RET	Priority for RET
1	Establish a Regional Steering Group to Enable the Delivery of LAEP Outcomes	£30,000 – £50,000	Energy Core Group	Coordination	Established with ongoing coordination
2	Establish a Long-Term Green Skills Programme to Enable the Delivery of Decarbonisation Measures	£450,000 – £500,000	Regional Skills Partnership	Monitoring/engagement with RSP	Ongoing engagement
3	Embed LAEP Learnings into Wider Council Processes and Communications to Enable the Delivery of LAEP Outcomes	£100,000 – £150,000	LAs/RET	Monitoring/support	Not a priority for RET
4	Facilitate Low and Zero Carbon Vehicle Uptake to Decarbonise Public Fleets	£30,000 – £50,000	LAs	Coordination	HIGH priority
5	Enhance Active Travel and Public Transport to Reduce Reliance on Personal Motorised Vehicles	Starting from £300,000	Regional Transport Strategy	Watching brief	Not a priority for RET
6	Continue Collaboration with Electricity and Gas Network Operators to Foster a Robust Future Energy System	£10,000 – £20,000	RET	Regular Engagement with NGED & WWU	Ongoing
7	Support the Zero Emission Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy (ZEVIS) to Address Future Needs of Hydrogen-Fuelled Vehicles in the Region	£100,000 – £125,000	RET	Watching brief	Not a priority for RET
8	Establish an Industry Engagement Forum to Identify and Progress Energy-Related Opportunities	£10,000 – £100,000	SWIC	Engagement with NZIW & SWIC & Western Gateway	Ongoing
9	Support the Development of a Retrofit and Low Carbon Heating Local Supply Chain to Enable the Delivery of Decarbonisation Measures	£10,000 – £150,000	HAPS	Support/Monitoring/Coordination	HIGH Priority (9, 10 & 11 linked)
10	Create a Behaviour-Change Campaign to Increase Uptake of Retrofit and Low Carbon Heating	£150,000 – £200,000	LAs/RET	Coordination/Funding	HIGH Priority (9, 10 & 11 linked)



11	Develop a Retrofit and Low Carbon Heating One Stop Shop Service to Decarbonise Private Residences with behavioural change a supporting action.	£250,000 setup £20,000 – £150,000 running.	LAs/RET	Coordination/ Funding	HIGH Priority (9, 10 & 11 linked)
12	Implement a Retrofit & Heat Bulk Purchasing Scheme to Decarbonise Social Housing	£75,000 — £125,000	HAPS/RSL/LAs	Support/ Monitoring	HIGH Priority



Appendix B Project Outline: South West Wales Solar Together (Draft)

PROJECT NAME Solar Together – South West Wales (iChoosr)	PROJECT MANAGER Regional Energy Project Manager	PROJECT Officer Regional Energy Project Officer
--	---	---

PROJECT SUMMARY	Group Purchasing Scheme for Solar, Battery and EV Chargers designed to establish a fixed price with good quality products from reputable installers for private property owners who are ‘able to pay’ and don’t qualify for grant schemes, projected managed by iChoosr.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Accelerate the uptake of PV generation, battery storage and EV home charging in the region.
SCOPE OF WORK	Council branded Mailshot to 78,424 properties across region (iChoosr Mosaic target group) with a conservative conversion estimate of 0.41% or 321 properties per year.
KEY DELIVERABLES	1.3 MWh of Solar Capacity added to the grid in the region. Annual CO2 reductions of 302 tons.
PROJECT TIMELINE	Project aiming for a potential Launch in 2025

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	ORGANISATION NAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	iChoosr	Project Manager
	Pembrokeshire County Council	
	Carmarthenshire County Council	
	Swansea County Council	
	Neath Port Talbot County Council	
	Addition of Home Loan Funder - Development Bank of Wales/Lendology	
BUDGET	£27448 – indicative cost of mailshot	Council revenue -£80 per install £25691 (based on 0.41% uptake)
FUNDING SOURCE	South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) – Subject to approval	



Appendix C Project Outline: Behavioural change project (Draft)

PROJECT NAME SOUTHWEST WALES BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PROGRAMME	PROJECT MANAGER Regional Energy Project Manager	PROJECT OFFICER Regional Energy Project Officer
---	--	---

PROJECT SUMMARY	Community based behavioural change programme consisting a regional a communications/coordination officer and website with advice and sign-posting and retrofit advice delivered by trusted local community groups, to help the public make the energy transition to net zero carbon.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Empower the public make the switch from fossil fuels and change how they use energy in their daily life, reducing their carbon emissions and their bills by increasing their energy efficiency in the home, in travel, etc.
SCOPE OF WORK	To be confirmed
KEY DELIVERABLES	To be confirmed
PROJECT TIMELINE	To be determined (allows for 3-5 Year Programmes).

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	ORGANISATION NAME	RESPONSIBILITY
	Ynni Sir Gar	
	Cwm Arian	
	Eco Dewi	
	Aman Awel Tawe	
	Swansea Community Energy & Enterprise Scheme	
	Sero	
BUDGET	Currently being scoped	
FUNDING SOURCE	Climate Action Fund- Subject to Approval	



Appendix D Project Outline: Cross-boundary EV charging (Draft)

PROJECT NAME Cross-Boundary EV charging pilot	PROJECT MANAGER Regional Energy Project Manager Project Manager Carbon Reduction Aspland (SCC)	PROJECT OFFICER Regional Energy Project Officer
---	---	---

PROJECT SUMMARY	Pilot looking at the feasibility of sharing LA depot EV charging infrastructure, particularly for home to work vehicle users working with Welsh Government Energy Service.
PROJECT OBJECTIVES	Pilot to identify the benefits and challenges of sharing EV charging infrastructure ultimately to accelerate the uptake of EV vehicles within the public fleet.
SCOPE OF WORK	Identify depots and staff that can be included in a cross-boundary trial, develop mechanism to accessing charging infrastructure of other public bodies, run pilot with a limited number of staff from across the region.
KEY DELIVERABLES	Demonstration of feasibility of cross-boundary/organisation charging.
PROJECT TIMELINE	TBC

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	ORGANISATION NAME	
	Swansea City Council	
	Pembrokeshire County Council	
	Carmarthenshire County Council	
	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council	
	Welsh Government Energy Service	
BUDGET	Not yet scoped	
FUNDING SOURCE	WGES EVCI grant – Subject to approval	



This page is intentionally left blank

SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE (SWWCJC)

Energy Sub-Committee

FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025



Meeting Date 2025	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
27 January 2025 (2pm)	Update on Regional Energy Strategy Delivery	Information	Rachel Moxey

Meeting Date 2025	Agenda Item	Type	Contact Officer
28 April 2025 (2pm)	Update on Regional Energy Strategy Delivery	Information	Rachel Moxey

Page
22



Cyngor Castell-nedd Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot Council

