



**SOUTH WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE**

**Energy Sub Committee**

**30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Report of the Chief Executive**

**Report Title: Update on Regional Energy Strategy Delivery**

Purpose of Report	Information
Recommendation(s)	<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>That Members of the SWWCJC Energy Sub Committee note the progress made to date and forthcoming milestones.</p> <p><b>Note.</b> 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>
Report Author	<p>Rachel Moxey                      Head of Economic Development and Regeneration</p> <p>Darren Thomas                      Head of Infrastructure &amp; Environment</p> <p>Laura Davies                      Regional Energy Team</p>
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

## 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Swansea Council (SC)	16 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Neath Port Talbot Council (NPT)	14 <sup>th</sup> April 2024
Pembrokeshire County Council (PCC)	13 <sup>th</sup> 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



Parc Cenedlaethol  
Arfordir Penfro  
Pembrokeshire Coast  
National Park



## 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)

<b>PROJECT NAME</b> Solar Together – South West Wales (iChoosr)	<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b> Regional Energy Project Manager	<b>PROJECT Officer</b> Regional Energy Project Officer
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<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	Accelerate the uptake of PV generation, battery storage and EV home charging in the region.
<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b>	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.
<b>KEY DELIVERABLES</b>	1.3 MWh of Solar Capacity added to the grid in the region. Annual CO2 reductions of 302 tons.
<b>PROJECT TIMELINE</b>	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	
<b>BUDGET</b>	£27448 – indicative cost of mailshot	Council revenue -£80 per install £25691 (based on 0.41% uptake)
<b>FUNDING SOURCE</b>	South West Wales Corporate Joint Committee (SWWCJC) – Subject to approval	



## Appendix C Project Outline: Behavioural change project (Draft)

<b>PROJECT NAME</b> SOUTHWEST WALES BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE PROGRAMME	<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b> Regional Energy Project Manager	<b>PROJECT OFFICER</b> Regional Energy Project Officer
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<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	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.
<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b>	To be confirmed
<b>KEY DELIVERABLES</b>	To be confirmed
<b>PROJECT TIMELINE</b>	To be determined (allows for 3-5 Year Programmes).

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



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

<b>PROJECT NAME</b> Cross-Boundary EV charging pilot	<b>PROJECT MANAGER</b> Regional Energy Project Manager  Project Manager Carbon Reduction Aspland (SCC)	<b>PROJECT OFFICER</b> Regional Energy Project Officer
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<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	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.
<b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b>	Pilot to identify the benefits and challenges of sharing EV charging infrastructure ultimately to accelerate the uptake of EV vehicles within the public fleet.
<b>SCOPE OF WORK</b>	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.
<b>KEY DELIVERABLES</b>	Demonstration of feasibility of cross-boundary/organisation charging.
<b>PROJECT TIMELINE</b>	TBC

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

