

SWANSEA BAY CITY DEAL JOINT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23rd November 2021

Homes As Power Stations (HAPS) Project Update

INFORMATION UPDATE

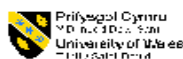
Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the current status of the Swansea Bay City Deal Homes As Power Stations (HAPS) project which was approved by the UK and Welsh Governments in July 2021. This project is one of the 9 City Deal Programmes and Projects and is a regional project led by Neath Port Talbot CBC.

Background / project overview

The Homes As Power Stations Project is a regional pioneering project to *facilitate* the adoption of the 'HAPS approach' i.e. the integration of energy efficient design and renewable technologies in new build and existing homes across the public, private and third sectors in the Swansea Bay City Region (Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire).

The project comprises a number of key objectives:



Facilitating the adoption of energy efficient design and renewable technologies in new build homes and existing housing stock

This will be supported by a £5.75m regional targeted financial incentives fund.

The HAPS project will align and add value (not duplicate) existing and pipeline new build and retrofit programmes by working initially with Local Authorities and Registered Social Landlords to prove the concept and communicate outcomes to a wider audience to increase the demand and uptake of the concept.

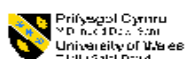
Developing a sustainable, skilled regional supply chain for renewable technologies in homes

This will be supported by a £7m regional supply chain development fund.

The aim of the fund is to diversify the regional economy by supporting product development to create a regional centre of excellence for renewable technologies.

There is a need to develop a consistent approach and aggregate the supply chain in order to develop a skilled and sustainable regional supply chain to support energy efficient homes.

HAPS has a target of facilitating the take up of energy efficiency design and renewable technologies in approx. 10,300 properties across the region therefore will establish demand and attract investment due to the scale of the project.



Coordinated monitoring and evaluating programme

Many of the technologies are relatively new and therefore the project will procure an independent organisation to evaluate the effectiveness of the design and technologies to ensure on-going learning and evaluation.

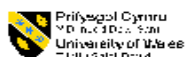
The evaluation budget is set at £1m and will therefore ensure comprehensive and accurate sets of data and results are available to inform the project as it progresses. Areas that will be included in the evaluation include:

- Technology performance
- Environmental conditions
- Fuel costs / fuel poverty
- Energy savings
- Behaviour
- Health (improvements in health and well-being)

The HAPS team will establish an Open Access Knowledge Sharing Hub to share learning with all sectors. This is essential to enable the project to communicate results of the various elements of the project which will be vital to ensure lessons are learned and shared to demonstrate the effectiveness of the HAPS approach and encourage a longer term, wider take up from the private sector.

Establishing a project team to coordinate activity

The HAPS project team will comprise of a Project Manager, Business Engagement Officer and Finance Officer. The team will work across the region to coordinate activity, deliver the regional financial incentives scheme, and regional supply chain fund by working closely with Registered Social Landlords, Local Authorities, existing and new



businesses. The team will also continue engagement with existing energy efficiency / decarbonisation of homes programmes including Optimised Retrofit Programme (OPR), Active Building Centre (ABC) as well as on-going engagement with Cardiff University – Welsh School of Architecture, Welsh Government and UK Government.

A Technical Advisory Group will be established to advise the team and HAPS Project Board to ensure the HAPS project keeps up to date with current and future developments.

Project Activity

Lessons learned / pilot project update

A key objective of the HAPS project will be to share information, data and lessons learned from the use of the new methods of construction, fabric and technologies. The newly created website will provide the opportunity for this to be done in a co-ordinated way and ensure we are able to use and maximise funding to learn collectively and progress the uptake of the concept(s).

The Pobl scheme in Neath was one of the earliest pilot projects in the region funded by WG Innovative Housing Programme (IHP) and included a number of partners including Swansea University (SPECIFIC), industry and government to create homes with the ability to generate, store and release solar energy.

The main objectives of the project included:

- Enable for the first time to demonstrate the benefits that the latest technologies can bring to affordable housing developments,
- To reduce fuel poverty and carbon emissions.



- Create homes that feel homely and pleasant to live in.
- Generate most of their energy needs from the roof and wall coverings.
- To reduce the bills for tenants.

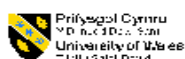
Data continues to be collected on this ‘pathfinder’ project to be able to learn more on all aspects of the build and living experience, as well as sharing lessons learned. Once the data has been analysed it will inform the delivery of the HAPS project.

See link to the latest information:

<https://www.specific.eu.com/active-homes-neath/>

Progress to date

- Oonagh Gavigan was recently appointed as Project Manager and commenced the role on 1st November 2021.
- Initial discussion into the creation of a dedicated website to communicate progress and lessons learned has taken place, this is likely to be led and developed by Neath Port Talbot CBC IT Department with links to the Swansea Bay City Deal web page.
- A mapping of current initiatives is underway to establish current opportunities to add value to programmes and highlight monitoring opportunities to prove the HAPS concept.
- Discussions have started to take place with Business Development Teams across each of the local authorities to map out and identify the current supply chains across the region. Ensuring financial opportunities are made available via the Supply Chain Development Fund and the Financial Incentives Fund, to existing and inward investment companies will be an important aspect as the project progresses.



Next steps

- The full project team will be recruited early in 2022.
- Establish and gain legal approval of the mechanisms to disseminate funding streams (Supply Chain / Incentives) across the region.
- Commence procurement discussions to appoint an appropriate external evaluator to ensure all data and information is collected and available for publication.
- A more comprehensive update on the project delivery is expected to be provided to the Joint Committee Group in Spring 2022.

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