

SOUTH-WEST WALES CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE ENERGY SUB COMMITTEE

27th February 2024
Report of the Chief Executive, Pembrokeshire

Report Title: Delivery of Local Area Energy Planning in South-West Wales

Purpose of Report	To advise the committee on the progress of delivery of the local area energy plans within the region.
Recommendation(s)	That the committee note the progress made to date and forthcoming key milestones.
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Finance Officer	Chris Moore
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Background

1. Welsh Government have funded the development of local area energy plans (“LAEPs”) for every local authority in Wales. This follows several local authorities being pilot locations, including Pembrokeshire. The LAEPs are being delivered by City Science in the South-West Wales Region for Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, and Carmarthenshire.
2. Draft LAEPs have been produced and are currently being internally reviewed by each local authority, with the technical modelling being reviewed by National Grid Energy Distribution and Wales and West Utilities.
3. Final LAEPs will be delivered for local authority cabinet consideration towards end March 2024.
4. Following completion of the national LAEPs there will be an exercise undertaken by the technical advisors to Welsh Government to align and consolidate the findings. This will then inform the further development and strategic direction of regional actions, and lead to the creation of a Wales-wide Energy Plan.
5. 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. A panel consisting of lead officers from each local authority conducted interviews in November 2023 with a preferred candidate selected for each post. The Energy Project Manager (Dr Elaine Forde) and Energy Project Officer (Rob Broome) have recently commenced duties, Unfortunately, the preferred candidate for the other Energy Project Officer post was subsequently unable to accept the

job offer due to personal reasons, as was the next highest scoring candidate. Accordingly, the vacant Energy Project Officer post is to be readvertised shortly.

6. Additional points to note:

- The LAEPs have been developed through regional collaboration with themes aligned to the Regional Energy Strategy. Stakeholder workshops have also been arranged on a thematic and regional basis to ensure a regional approach whilst still maintaining a local focus.
- Whilst many of the scenarios and levers are local a large number are regional (skills, transport, housing, infrastructure) thus ensuring that the LAEPs remain connected with regional context...

Financial Impacts: None

Integrated Impact Assessment: These will be completed when the LAEPs are ready for local cabinet decision-making.

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

Legal Impacts: None

Risk Management Impacts: Risks arising as part of the 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.

Consultation: A wide range of stakeholders are consulted as part of the development of the LAEPs.

Reasons for Proposed Decision: No decision required.

Implementation of Decision: N/A

Appendices: City Science slides outlining progress with the LAEPs.

List of Background Papers: N/A