

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

27th February 2024

**Report of Rachel Moxey, Head of Economic Development and
Regeneration, Pembrokeshire County Council**

Report Title: South West Wales Regional Energy Policy and Scene Setting

Purpose of Report	To set the scene on factors and governance structures influencing regional energy policy and to outline known developments in regional energy and outline some additional financial resource required for next steps.
Recommendation(s)	That the request for the draw down of £120,500 be passed to the Corporate Joint Committee for decision.
Report Author	Rachel Moxey, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration, Pembrokeshire County Council
Finance Officer	Chris Moore
Legal Officer	Craig Griffiths

Introduction / Background:

The Corporate Joint Committee (CJC) for South West Wales has been mandated to implement a Regional Energy Strategy for the region by Welsh Government and will also soon have the benefit of an extensive evidence base from the production of the Local Area Energy Plans.

This update based upon Appendix 1 “NZIW – Inward Investment Brief_Draft_v4” is intended to ensure CJC Members are aware of the regional landscape, drivers and activities already underway and sets the scene for the future activity in this space.

This report also seeks to secure some initial funding to support the development of an investment pack, along with associated activities and feasibility studies on prioritised projects.

Financial Impacts:

The report requests the draw down of funding from Corporate Joint Committee reserves as detailed below.

Activity	Funding	Delivery partners
Sprint 1 – development of investment pack	£20,500	Regional Energy Leads NZIW

		WGES WG
Sprint 1 – investment campaign	£25,000	Regional Energy Leads, SWIC, NZIW, SBCD, WGES
Sprint 2 – further development of pathways to Net Zero (GIS Mapping, Renewables Projects, Retrofit, GIS mapping of projects)	3x £15,000 - £25,000 (£75,000) initial phases to work on 3 prioritised projects.	WGES and externally appointed consultants Internal local authority resources.
Total	£120,500	

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 CJC 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.

Workforce Impacts:

This report and Appendix 1 “NZIW – Inward Investment Brief_Draft_v4” has been produced using existing capacity within the regional local authorities and NZIW and there is no workforce impact beyond allocating time to this specific task.

Legal Impacts:

None.

Risk Management Impacts:

In developing this investment pack and the associated works in following sprints the region will be mitigating the risk of failure to meet the WG Net Zero 2050 targets.

Consultation:

No formal consultation required for the purpose of this report. Full consultation included as part of Sprint 1 with key stakeholders.

Reasons for Proposed Decision:

To request the funding decision be referred to the Corporate Joint Committee.

Implementation of Decision:

If agreed this report will need to be added to the Corporate Joint Committee agenda.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 “NZIW – Inward Investment Brief_Draft_v4.

List of Background Papers:

None.