

Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Item No.

Report title:	Tri-LEP area Local Energy Strategy
Date of meeting:	6 July 2018
Responsible Chief Officer:	Tom McCabe - Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services
Strategic impact In keeping with the ambitions within the corporate strategy 'Norfolk Futures', this regional strategy provides the platform to support future growth within the county, insofar as opportunities to deliver local energy solutions are concerned.	

Executive summary

Since April 2017, New Anglia, Greater Cambridgeshire/Greater Peterborough (and later the Cambridge/Peterborough Combined Authority) and Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnerships have been working together to research, map, analyse and co-design a local energy strategy for the combines area. This strategy is the culmination of that work, funded by the Department of Business, Energy and, Industrial Strategy (BEIS).

This Tri-LEP Energy East Project, as one of the first in the country, will, in addition, form the basis for a new energy hub in the Greater South East of England, already funded through BEIS, to unblock some of the current challenges concerning grid connectivity, as well as capitalising on opportunities for local energy generation, storage, distribution and supply. The development of the strategy has been through the combined efforts of a number of institutions within the region, including many of the local authorities.

Recommendations:

Committee are asked to endorse the Strategy on behalf of NCC

1. Proposal

- 1.1. New Anglia have circulated an endorsement copy of the Strategy for consideration by all stakeholders (this is over 300 within the Tri-LEP area). This includes all 38 local authorities within the catchment. (accessed via this [link](#))

The LEPs have not sent the strategy for consultation but to each local authority within their areas for endorsement. It has already been presented to the Norfolk Chief Executives Group (June 14) for them to designate it to the appropriate committee within their local authority.

At the same time they have circulated some outlined questions to help shape the delivery of the Strategy going forward (the questions can be seen [here](#)). For Norfolk County Council these were co-ordinated by the Economic Development Team, and a copy of the questions is included for information. Feedback on these was requested by 15 June 2018, and a response was duly returned. The LEPs have requested formal endorsement by 6 July 2018. All organisations will be formally acknowledged when the Strategy is published in the summer.

2. Evidence

- 2.1. Underpinning the strategy is a 'Mapping Analysis Report' (a link to this is [here](#)). This captures the data analysis exercise that was used to inform the shape of the energy strategy. An output from this analysis work, was the creation of an interactive tool, available through an online portal, which has layers of energy-related data. It enables planners, developers, land owners and decision makers to understand the energy landscape within the area covered by the strategy. This portal tool will go live on the launch of the strategy, although a beta version has been trialled by users prior to this alongside the analysis work.

3. Financial Implications

- 3.1. Endorsement of the strategy has no financial implications at this stage. If and when the Council becomes involved with initiatives that support delivering on the objectives of the strategy, the Council, and the appropriate committee(s) will be consulted. It is intended that the strategy will form the springboard for a delivery plan that will be available by the autumn of 2018. This will be developed by a range of stakeholders. All local authorities within the area covered by the strategy will have the opportunity to input to the development of this plan.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

- 4.1. This work commenced with a comprehensive exercise to map energy demand, supply, generation, distribution and storage, within the context of critical attributes that are deemed to underpin the prevailing energy system. These included:

- Grid power and gas networks and any constraints that might exist;
- Areas of projected housing and commercial growth;
- Development of electric vehicle charging infrastructure;
- Indices of fuel poverty
- Domestic and non-domestic electricity and gas consumption

The work in developing the strategy has enabled the three LEP areas to consolidate their work alongside 9 other LEPs within the Greater South East of England. The consequence of this was to successfully bid to BEIS for £2.7m to develop an Energy Hub in the Greater South East of England (from April 2018), spanning these collective LEP areas.

Other resource implications - At this moment in time there are no other implications related to the endorsement of this strategy.

5. Background

- 5.1. A copy of the 'Endorsement' version of the 'Local Energy East Strategy' is included, which has only been circulated to stakeholders. Based on feedback from the stakeholders, the 'official' version will be launched in the summer. As referred to in the 'Evidence' section above, the key background document to the Strategy itself is the 'Mapping Analysis Report', which is included for reference. However, the Strategy has also been informed by the Government's 'Industrial Strategy' and 'Clean Growth Strategy'. Which can be viewed on the Gov.uk website. www.gov.uk

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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