

## SOUTH HOLLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Report of:** Portfolio Holder for Growth and Commercialisation

**To:** Cabinet Tuesday, 10 July 2018

**Author:** Nigel Burch, Economic Development and Inward Investment Manager

**Subject** Local Energy East Strategy

**Purpose:** To consider the Local Energy East Strategy for formal endorsement

### **Recommendation(s):**

- 1) That cabinet consider the contents of the report and provides formal endorsement of the Local Energy East Strategy

### **1.0 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 South Holland District Council has been invited by the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority to give formal consideration to the local Energy East Strategy document; a draft strategy that has been produced to support both local and regional energy issues that are prohibiting growth in the areas covered by the New Anglia LEP, the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority and Hertfordshire LEPs.
- 1.2 The purpose of the strategy is to capture and set out activities designed to unblock current challenges concerning energy, alongside activities to capitalise on local energy generation, storage, distribution and supply opportunities. It has been funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS).
- 1.3 All local authorities within the geography covered by the study, which includes South Holland by virtue of its membership of the former Greater Cambridgeshire LEP (which has now been replaced by a 'business board' linked to the Cambridge and Peterborough Combined Authority), are being asked to provide feedback on the draft strategy, and also to consider providing formal endorsement to the draft strategy and its stated aims. This feedback will in-turn help to shape the delivery plan for the strategy. All public sector organisations that endorse the strategy will be referenced within the final published document as a supporting partner.
- 1.4 Officers have considered the strategy in detail, and have formulated some initial feedback on the strategy. The response provided by the authority is included within the appendix to this report.
- 1.5 The following summarises the initial feedback provided by the authority on the strategy;
  - That the four key objectives of the strategy are appropriate, those being 1) clean economic growth, 2) housing growth and commercial site infrastructure, 3) secure,

local, affordable, low carbon consumption and 4) the need to support clean transport networks.

- That there is a need to ensure that major economic projects within the district with a role to play in the development of 'cleaner' economic growth are referenced within the document. These projects include the emerging Holbeach Food Enterprise Zone, which has a potentially significant role in supporting industry with a focus in automation in the agriculture, food manufacturing, horticulture and logistics sectors.
- That there is a need to include similar references within the document to the range of green generation assets that are located in the district, and the role of these assets in supporting the delivery of the wider strategy set out within the document. These assets include wind farms, solar farms and anaerobic digestion plants. They also include larger facilities that are located elsewhere, but whose output makes 'landfall' in the district, such as Race Bank, Inner Dowsing and the Lincolnshire offshore windfarms, as well as the proposed 'Viking Link' which will require a large converter station to be built at Bicker Fen in the north of the district.
- That South Holland, along with many other districts in Lincolnshire and the wider region, has issues with both the availability and cost of utility infrastructure, and that as a consequence consideration should be given in the future to making some of this locally-produced green energy available, via local green energy networks, particularly with a view to support new housing and commercial developments in the district.
- That this approach could be further extended to support the roll out of electric vehicle charging points, and maybe, even further ahead, the electrification of the joint-line.

1.6 Having considered the strategy in detail, officers are minded to recommend that the council provides endorsement to the strategy and its stated aims, gives its alignment with the authority's own priorities relating to housing and economic growth, alongside the focus within the strategy in addressing issues that impact upon the growth, including power generation and distribution. Consequently, the recommendation contained within the report is that the authority should consider formal endorsement of the Local Energy East Strategy.

## 2.0 OPTIONS

2.1 Option 1: To provide formal endorsement of the Local Energy East Strategy, as per the report recommendation. Under this option, the authority will become a named signatory of the strategy and will provide formal endorsement.

2.2 Option 2: Do nothing. Under this option, the authority will not provide formal support for the strategy.

## 3.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 As set out earlier within this report, the Local Energy East Strategy is focused around a number of matters of relevance to the council's own strategic priorities, notable concerning housing and economic growth, alongside the focus within the strategy in addressing issues that impact upon the growth, including power generation and distribution. For these reasons, it is recommended that the authority provides formal endorsement of the strategy.

## 4.0 EXPECTED BENEFITS

4.1 It is anticipated that the Local Energy East Strategy will assist power distributors, utility companies and policy makers in taking steps to ensure that future energy provision in the

East of England will be robust enough to support growth in a sustainable manner.

## 5.0 **IMPLICATIONS**

In preparing this report, the report author has considered the likely implications of the decision - particularly in terms of Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues; Constitutional & Legal; Contracts; Corporate Priorities; Crime & Disorder; Equality & Diversity/Human Rights; Financial; Health & Wellbeing; Reputation; Risk Management; Safeguarding; Staffing; Stakeholders/Consultation/Timescales; Transformation Programme; Other. Where the report author considers that there may be implications under one or more of these headings, these are identified below.

### 5.1 **Carbon Footprint / Environmental Issues**

- 5.1.1 By maximising the amount of renewable energy used in the district, distributed through local, green power networks, the Carbon footprint of the district will be reduced with associated environmental benefits

### 5.2 **Corporate Priorities**

- 5.2.1 The stated aims of the Local Energy East Strategy align closely with the delivery of the council's own corporate priorities, namely to 'encourage the local economy to be vibrant with continued growth'.

## 6.0 **WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED**

- 6.1 All wards

## 7.0 **ACRONYMS**

- 7.1 LEP – Local Enterprise Partnership

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Background papers:-	None
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### **Lead Contact Officer**

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<b>Key Decision:</b>	N
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<b>Exempt Decision:</b>	N
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**This report refers to a Discretionary Service**

### **Appendices attached to this report:**

Appendix A	South Holland District Council Energy East Response
Appendix B	Local Energy East Strategy-updated