

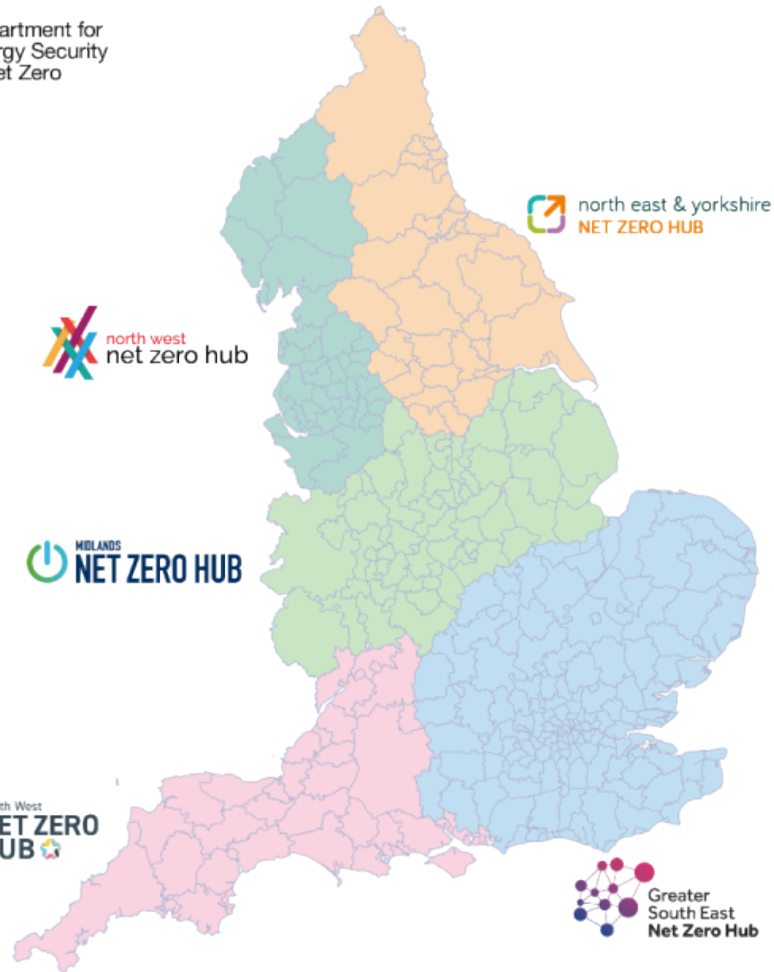
SOUTH WEST NET ZERO HUB

BCP Oversight & Scrutiny Committee

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THE SOUTH WEST NET ZERO HUB



Overarching objective:

To support Great British Energy, Clean Power 2030 and the Warm Homes Plan

Objective 1:

Attract commercial investment and help LAs apply investment models that accelerate progress to CP 2030 & NZ 2050.

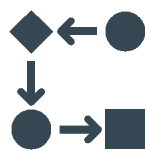
Objective 2:

Increase the number of NZ projects, including supporting early-stage development.

Objective 3:

Support a national knowledge transfer programme and build networks and partnerships. Support LAs in their engagement with the public on net zero.

WHAT WE DO



WE SUPPORT LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND PUBLIC SECTOR PARTNERS TO MOVE FROM NET ZERO AMBITION INTO PRACTICAL PROJECT DELIVERY



**Provide impartial advice,
technical support and project
development funding**



**Fund specialist consultants for
feasibility, options appraisal
and business case work**



**Support financial assessments
/ delivery model appraisals as
part of development work**



**Help de-risk early
development work**



**Focus on projects that can
progress towards funding,
procurement and
implementation**



**Support local authority /
community energy
partnerships**

WHAT IS A ENERGY PROJECT PIPELINE?

- A credible renewable energy pipeline is more than a list of sites. Each opportunity needs:
 - ❑ Technical feasibility and grid considerations
 - ❑ Ownership, lease and site constraints understood
 - ❑ Costs, benefits, carbon impact and indicative financial case
 - ❑ Delivery model options and procurement implications
 - ❑ Risks, dependencies, governance and decision points
 - ❑ Clear next steps towards funding, procurement or delivery
- Allows asset owners to compare / prioritise opportunities and allocate resources accordingly
- Enables decisions around delivery routes, funding options and partnership opportunities
- Serves to avoid treating each asset as a one-off decision - drives decisions around phasing, strategic alignment, governance routes etc

TYPICAL HUB APPROACH

Start with
council-owned,
controlled or
influenced
assets

Review rooftops,
car parks,
depots, landfill,
agricultural land
and commercial
assets

Assess
renewable
energy
potential, site
constraints, grid
position and
deliverability

Assess financial
merit and
delivery models
for technically
viable sites

Group viable
opportunities
into portfolios
where this
improves scale,
value or delivery
efficiency

Help develop
investment-
ready business
cases to support
next steps

EXAMPLES OF HUB-FUNDED PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT

Somerset

Assessing land and asset opportunities for technical viability and against alternative uses (e.g. disposal, housing or other strategic priorities)

Dorset

Carrying out technical, commercial and legal feasibility assessment for rooftop PV for 120 commercial sites

Mid Devon

Supporting work on council-owned tenanted sites, including legal and commercial implications of deploying rooftop PV where occupiers, leases and cost/benefit sharing create complexity

Isle of Wight

Supporting development of a pipeline of projects - including community energy partnership opportunities - to support grid negotiations

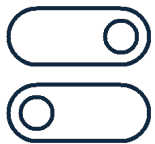
WHAT MORE MATURE COUNCILS ARE EXPLORING

Portsmouth

has largely maximised rooftop PV on council assets and is now exploring wider routes such as acquisition opportunities and VPPAs

Southampton

has built local generation assets and is exploring how to monetise surplus generation through complex site arrangements



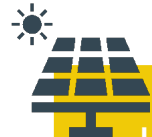
MATURE PIPELINES CREATE OPTIONALITY. COUNCILS CAN CONSIDER MORE SOPHISTICATED FUNDING, DELIVERY AND LOCAL ENERGY MODELS ONCE THEY UNDERSTAND THEIR ASSET BASE AND PROJECT RISKS.

COMMUNITY ENERGY & WHERE IT FITS IN LOCAL AUTHORITY DELIVERY

Community energy can complement council-led and commercial delivery by:



Bringing local ownership and community benefit into projects



Helping progress smaller, more complex or lower-return sites



Supporting engagement, trust and local participation



Providing a delivery route where there is an active group and suitable assets.



Retaining more value locally through reinvestment of project surplus in local initiatives

COMMUNITY ENERGY AND GREAT BRITISH ENERGY

- Community energy can support delivery where local ownership, local benefit and place-based engagement matter
- **Great British Energy Local Power Plan**: vision for every community to have the opportunity to benefit from and own a local energy project by 2030
- Includes **Community Fund** for community energy groups and **Partnership Fund** for joint local authority / community energy projects
- BCP will be better placed if it has already identified: suitable sites, potential partners, delivery roles and early feasibility evidence

HOW LOCAL AUTHORITIES CAN ENABLE COMMUNITY ENERGY

1. **Strategy:** Build community energy into wider net zero, asset and regeneration strategies.
2. **Sites:** Identify suitable sites and share early project information
3. **Role:** Clarify whether the council is asset owner, facilitator, partner, funder or off-taker
4. **Governance:** Agree internal routes through property, legal, procurement and finance

**START SMALL: USE PILOT SITES AND EARLY
FEASIBILITY WORK TO TEST THE MODEL BEFORE
SCALING.**

BCP LAEP: THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR BCP TOWARDS NET ZERO

BCP's LAEP sets a clear direction for local energy delivery:

- Area-wide net zero target by **2045**.
- Electricity demand expected to increase significantly, with **2045 electricity demand around 2x baseline**.
- Local renewable generation target of **~400 GWh**, equivalent to **13% of projected 2045 electricity demand**.
- Rooftop PV is central to this pathway, with the LAEP identifying **280 MW of rooftop PV potential by 2045**.
- Ground-mounted PV potential is more constrained because of Green Belt sensitivities, increasing the importance of rooftops, car parks and council-influenced assets.

TARGETS & DELIVERY IMPLICATIONS

5,000

Buildings
surveyed for
rooftop PV
suitability by Q1
2028

>100

New Council
rooftop PV
installations by
Q1 2030

10

Community-led
energy projects
by Q1 2030

What these suggest:

- Significant scale / pace of delivery is required
- Isolated site-by-site decisions may not be effective
- A structured approach is needed (and the Hub is well placed to support)

FINANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- BCP's LAEP recognises that delivery will require more than identifying technical opportunities.
- To make that meaningful, BCP will need a clear view of:
 - Which projects are most viable?
 - What scale of investment is required?
 - Which assets should be council-led, community-led or partner-led?
 - What risks, constraints and dependencies need to be resolved?
 - What governance route will move projects from feasibility to decision?
- But also:
 - What is the asset?
 - Who owns it?
 - Who uses the energy?
 - Who takes the risk?
 - Who receives the benefit?

Action 1: Net Zero Fund

- Investigate developing a Net Zero Fund to finance LAEP delivery across sectors.
- Explore traditional capital markets and financing mechanisms, including community municipal investment.
- Complete a Financial Options Review by Q4 2026.

CONCLUSION: FROM LAEP AMBITION TO DELIVERY

1. A prioritised project pipeline

- Build from existing LAEP evidence and site assessments.
- Identify which opportunities are most viable, deliverable and strategically important.
- Group projects into portfolios where this improves scale, value or delivery efficiency.

2. Clear delivery models, including community energy

- Decide which projects are best suited to council-led, commercial, community energy or partnership delivery.
- Identify where community ownership adds local value.
- Prepare for emerging Local Power Plan / GBE partnership opportunities.

3. Investment-ready evidence and governance

- Understand technical, legal, commercial and financial risks.
- Agree decision-making routes through finance, legal, procurement, property and sustainability teams.
- Progress priority projects towards business case, procurement and delivery.

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swnetzerohub@westofengland-ca.gov.uk



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