

Public Document Pack

AGENDA ITEM 8 – ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Details of statements and questions submitted to the meeting are attached.

Please note: the meeting on 1 February 2019 was opened and then adjourned due to adverse weather conditions. The meeting reconvened on 15 February 2019. All items received from the public for the 1 February meeting were carried forward to the reconvened meeting on 15 February.

Agenda item 8 – Items from the public

Statements received

1	David Redgewell Public funding for bus services
2	David Redgewell Light rail / bus issues
3	Joanna Wood Energy Strategy
4	Jen Witts Energy Strategy
5	Sam Morris Energy Strategy
6	Nick Hudson Energy Strategy
7	Cllr Clive Stevens, BCC Energy Strategy
8	Daniel Nettelfield Energy Strategy
9	Cllr Martin Fodor, BCC Energy Strategy
10	David Angel Energy Strategy
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Statement 1

Submission to WECA Budget Meeting 18th Jan, WECA Scrutiny 23 Jan , WECA Committee & Joint Committee 1 Feb

Public Funding for Bus Services

We are very concerned over the lack of agreed funding and commissioning of bus services that required by the local communities that are not commercially viable. These lack of services are now severe hardship and isolation. WECA have a duty to provide a bus strategy and then to commission such services. This is a particular issue in rural communities such as the 179 which runs from Bath to Midsummer Norton which have no evening, Saturday or Sunday services. In Bristol the 36 and 96 have no evening or Sunday services. Also there are still gaps in provision that need addressing.

Since the creation of the Combined Authority the powers and duties have transferred so we need to see adequate provision of services by the Combined Authority and the budget spent. There are also duties to work closely on cross boundary services especially with North Somerset. We also wish to see a prompt resolution to the MetroBus provision on the South Bristol loop. We welcome the T3 service at Bristol Parkway but the MetroBus infrastructure needs to be built rapidly as the service has started running.

We wish to see budget include the provision for officers to carry out bus and rail services and infrastructure.

Dictated by David Redgewell, Bus Users UK and SW Transport Network.

Statement 2

Statement from Mr D Redgewell on behalf of South West Transport Network and Bus Users South West

LIGHT RAIL ISSUES

Bath - Warmley light rail consultation (Light rail around Bristol and Bath)

We want to see the budget for the light rail consultation studies in the Greater Bristol area to be fully protected and support the principle of a light rail route to Bristol Airport as a top priority and later to Bath especially from Lambridge across the City to Newbridge which could then make use of the light rail corridor to Bristol through Bitton, Saltford, Kelston, Warmley to Yate and East Bristol via Mangotsfield, Staple Hill and Fishponds as well as linking into the RUH at Weston, the new Bath Spa Art & Design College at Weston Lock and Park & Ride sites which need to be co-ordinated with the Bristol Mayor's rapid transit project. The two schemes must link to Warmley and Emersons Green and the Avon Valley Railway steam services should be retained at weekends, during school holidays and for Santa Specials and other events. Provision should be made for a continuous cycle/walkway between Bristol and Bath where possible.

The Callington Road rail corridor on the former North Somerset Railway alignment to Radstock must be safeguarded for light rail use and an alignment identified to gain access to the Stockwood/Whitchurch area also serving new housing at Hengrove Park (on the former Whitchurch airport site). The railway corridor from Yate to Iron Acton, Tytherington and Thornbury must also be safeguarded for future tram-train services to serve the proposed new housing.

The implementation of light rail will help bring the City region into line with EU emission and clean air targets together with clean fuel buses and taxi's.

We would only support a light rail scheme which minimises the amount of tunnels required and is at street level wherever possible to maximise accessibility to avoid the need for lifts and stairways thus reducing infrastructure costs.

A future extension of the light rail line towards East Bristol would provide economic and employment benefits to those living in the Bristol BS5 area (which still has higher than average levels of employment and social deprivation) by improving access to employment/study opportunities around the North Fringe, the Emersons Green Science Park and the new Bath Spa University (Emersons Green).

The light rail corridor to Odd Down is welcomed, however the majority of the traffic is to the Somer Valley at Peasedown, Radstock and Mid Somer Norton and therefore an extension of a rapid transit system to this area would be beneficial. An evaluation of the Somerset and Dorset railway corridor is also required as Norton Radstock is an enterprise zone and needs public transport improvement.

A new light rail station at Warmley could be an interchange for buses in the Kingswood area and one at Fishponds station would be suitable for the 5/17/48/48A/49/Y2 and Y5 bus services.

There should be improvements to MetroRail services to Bath, Westbury, Clifton Down (to Severn Beach), Gloucester via the Filton Bank and the Henbury loop.

South West Transport Network think that the Arena at Filton should have sufficient coach parking close to the site with MetroBus stops, coach stops and bus stops at this location together with Park &

Ride services to Brislington, Parkway, Portway, Ashton Vale, extra trains from Bath and West Wilts, Taunton, W-S-M, Cardiff, Newport, Patchway, Filton, Yate, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Severn Beach via Clifton Down, Henbury loop, Portishead and Swindon. There should be a 15 minute frequency for rail services on the Henbury loop which serve the Arena and a 10 minute shuttle bus service on main routes to it.

The new IEP trains need to operate from London and South Wales via Parkway to Filton North station for the arena, services from the South West, West Midlands to the Henbury loop station, coach parking will need to be provided, taxis, bus links Greater Bristol wide, links to Cribbs Causeway and hotels will need to be addressed.

We urge the City Council, WECA and Bristol Mayor's to address a full integrated transport plan for the Arena similar to those at Manchester Victoria or Wembley.

The Arena rail services will need to be included in the new rail franchise.

BUS ISSUES

Whilst we welcome fully the City Business plan, transport outcomes which are in-line with the congestion task group the main issue that we need to address is to get the MetroBus rapid transit network fully operational on all lines and routes especially the South Bristol link (Hengrove - Hartcliffe to the Floating Harbour and City Centre/Temple Meads) and the link via the M32 to UWE, Bristol Parkway, Aztec West and Cribbs Causeway along with routes already commissioned (Emersons Green - Bristol M3), Hengrove - Bradley Stoke and Cribbs Causeway M2).

We need to commission with public subsidy through WECA some of the start up services in South Bristol / North Somerset (perhaps X75, X76 to the City, Filton, Henbury, Patchway and Cribbs Causeway and across to Bristol Parkway and Emersons Green (MetroBus Phase 3).

We wish to see continued City Council support for the Brislington and Portway Park and Ride services.

There are concerns that if MetroBus is not successful then pushing forward with our first light rail rapid transit route to the airport could be more difficult. Equally, MetroBus needs to show good progress on interchanges at Temple Meads and Parkway so as to improve our chances of getting £47 million of MetroWest Phase 1 money for the Portishead and Severn Beach lines.

On integration we are concerned that the Bristol area MetroBus issues have not been addressed although Bristol has 20% growth on the Showcase routes in the City region including Bath operated by First, HCT Group and Stagecoach West :-

- 1.interchange information and signage at Temple Meads*
- 2.interchanges with other buses at key locations*
- 3.interchange with coaches in Bond Street and the Coach station*
- 4.including the 505 bus in the M2 timetable and map as it operates via Hotwells Road*
- [5.no](#) information on cross-harbour ferries on maps or ferry terminals.*

[6.no](#) details of Freedom Pass rail/bus ticket or the Avon/Bristol Rider tickets and bus ticket machines not registering Freedom passes.

The Mayor also wishes to follow Edinburgh and convert the Temple Meads - Ashton Gate route to the airport to light rail in the future.

What has happened to the Whitchurch – Hengrove Hospital – Hartcliffe - Bedminster – Temple Meads – City Route?

What has happened to the South Bristol Loop route?

- *Metrobus routes should have full access to Bristol Parkway Station and Bristol Temple Meads to enable full and easy interchange*
- *signage for MetroBus interchanges at Bedminster and Parson Street stations and harbour ferries is required.*
- *MetroBuses should serve Aztec West to Lydd Green via UWE*
- *The following locations should be part of the MetroBus network – Yate, Chipping Sodbury, Thornbury, Clevedon, Keynsham and Bath*
- *With the T1, T2 services to Thornbury there are issues with the design of the routes around the town and the need for bus shelter upgrades along the A38 at Alveston, Rudgeway and Thornbury.*
- *In the City centre and BRI there is no disabled access (castle kerbs). If the Yate (Y) services are to move from the bus station then the disabled access will need to be provided.*
- *If the Megabus & Falcon coach services are to move from Bond Street into the bus station (subject to agreement) there should be suitable capacity for them.*
- *Regarding Bristol Airport we support the future provision being for a mass transit light rail link along the South Bristol link/A38 as suggested in the Bristol Airport Towards 2050 Master Plan consultation.*
- *When the Portishead line reopens there needs to be a bus/rail interchange at Ashton Gate*
- *need for MetroBus/rail/ferry ticketing*
- *provision needs to be made for public toilets on MetroBus routes ie City Centre, Bear Pit, Ashton Park*
- *We want WECA/Bristol City Council to provide some public subsidy, at least initially, for MetroBus routes to get them established.*

There is a need to improve and deliver as part of the Metro Mayor's bus review a viable bus network in North and South Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North East Somerset.

Service 10 Southmead hospital - Patchway - Bristol Parkway station - UWE - Lyde Green must be reinstated along with service 16 Bristol Parkway - UWE - Fishponds (Lodge Causeway including the Hillfields estate) - Hanham - Longwell Green.

With recent Council cuts on service 17 Southmead hospital - Fishponds - Staple Hill - Kingswood - Keynsham (subsidy withdrawn on evening and Sunday services) and changes to the service 36 going from the City Centre to St Annes terminating at Brislington Wick Road. It should be noted that the last service 96 (the service 36 partial route replacement service) 96 (Brislington - Hengrove) departing Brislington Square at 19.23 with the last return service from Hengrove leaving Hengrove Depot, Entrance at 1830 (Mondays-Fridays) and no service 96 on Sundays whatsoever leaving sections of the community in South Bristol with very limited orbital public transport connectivity.

Revised services in North East Somerset eg service 179 Bath - Timsbury - Radstock have resulted in cuts with no Saturday or Sunday services and no weekday evening services and on service 178 Bath - Radstock evening and Sunday services have also been cut so it is extremely important to protect the bus network and not reduce journey opportunities for the general public who depend on them.

We want to see continued support for the subsidised bus services that many residents depend on for access to jobs and crucial services. The Mayor must discuss with WECA where the additional money for bus services is going to be found. We have been contacted by residents hit by recently withdrawn services from Wessex. We need to see subsidy important bus services in Bristol, specifically (a) evenings, Saturdays and Sundays on Service 2A, (b) Park And Ride at sites serving Bristol City Centre on Sundays and (c) the Service 10 (previously Wessex) that ran Lydd Green – UWE – Patchway – Southmead Hospital. We also want service 16 Longwell Green - Bristol Parkway reinstated and the maintenance of service 36 at its current level. We note cuts in service 17 which will effect both patients relatives and hospital staff. Workers are really struggling to get to work in a reasonable travelling time and these important services need proper subsidy. We urge the Mayor to ensure that WECA officers are working closely with Bristol and South Gloucester officers on cross boundary routes otherwise orbital routes will become unuseable due to country bus type level service frequencies. The City of Bristol has considerable problems with bus stop rutting eg Fishponds Road by Morrisons supermarket (inbound and outbound stops).

We support the extension of the Bus Shelter advertising concession on the agenda but are disappointed that the replacement of 300 shelters due to finish in 2020 has been delayed for a year. Part of the delay is due to MetroBus but surely this should have been counted as extra infrastructure and not reliant on current spending. We ask that all infrastructure is high quality and accessible for all to ensure that this essential part of public transport adds to the experience and is not a barrier.

Sufficient resource must be given to keep the shelters clean and free of graffiti and to make sure they are well lit. We ask that because of the one year delay in completion, the programme is reviewed and the work scheduled for passenger benefit so that the most used stops are replaced first bringing benefits to the majority first and not the easiest or cheapest first.

DAVID REDGEWELL SWTN/Bus Users South West

Statement 3 - Joanna Wood – Energy Strategy

To the West of England Combined Authority (WECA)

I write as a concerned citizen of Bristol.

Please can you explain to me why it has taken WECA so long (over 8 months) to produce an energy strategy on reducing carbon emissions in the region, despite the CSE report being available to you since May 2018?

In addition it seems that many of the recommendations from the CSE report have been ignored.

This report was well researched and data rich, with detailed recommendations for both the immediate actions needed, and a longer term road map of where the region needs to be heading over the coming years.

In contrast the strategy produced by WECA lacks detail, the objectives are undefined with no timescales - this is woefully inadequate given the scale of the climate crisis that we face.

I believe you are meeting on Friday and I would like my concerns to be taken into account, and to be kept up date with how WECA intend to produce a strategy that addresses the actual risk that we face from climate breakdown and the 6th mass extinction, with specific actions that are measurable and time bound and lead us towards where we need to be - carbon neutrality.

Statement 4 – Jen Witts – Energy Strategy

I am writing in frustration and dismay about the WECA report. I have been waiting for the last 8 months for a substantive response to the CSE report and had expected that it would be responding to the fact that we are in climate crisis and require an immediate and urgent change of strategy in terms of our energy and becoming carbon neutral within the next 12 years. I am disappointed and in fact outraged that this existential threat is not being taken seriously.

Statement 5 – Sam Morris – Energy Strategy

- The energy strategy that WECA has released is a huge disappointment. It contains no actionable, measurable plan and offers no time table to enable the WOE to travel towards a sustainable, zero carbon future.

The process of putting this report together began back in 2017, when WECA commissioned CSE to produce a report - 'towards a sustainable future for the west of England'. I have no idea how, in over 1 year, WECA has managed to put together such a vague and frankly useless strategy; particularly given that they had a fantastic resource and framework available in the form of the CSE report; and given the WOE's expertise in sustainable energy.

The committee have completely failed the people of the WOE with this lazy and lacklustre strategy: it is wholly underwhelming and will not deliver the rapid and unprecedented changes needed to help in the global effort to tackle the climate and ecological crisis we find ourselves in.

We have less than 12 years left to act; time is ticking, the public are watching! The committee must soundly reject this proposal and should waste no time in putting forward a bolder and more ambitious strategy (taking guidance from CSE and other advisory bodies) that will deliver real and lasting benefits for the region.

To add to that, the committee should have made this whole process more open and inclusive. I find it maddening (and very suspicious) that so little time was allowed for public and professional scrutiny of both the CSE report and the strategy.

Given that, once implemented, the effects of this strategy will be felt for years to come, I find it inconceivable that having been released on Friday 25th Jan, only a few days over a weekend were allowed for public scrutiny and any questions relating to the document needed to be submitted by close of play Monday 28th. The timeframe from release of documents to date of debate is one week, The proceeds is undemocratic and stinks of an administration who sees its self as above, rather than at the service of its citizens.

Sam Morris

Statement 6 – Nick Hudson – Energy Strategy

I am writing concerning the weca energy strategy.

I have the following concerns.

The strategy has taken a long time to be released to the public

It fails to demonstrate any serious means to get the region to a zero carbon future.

There are no targets in it and the objectives are undefined as are timescales.

Weca have ignored many of the recommendations of the CSE report

The CSE report is well researched and contains much solid info based on stakeholder consultation
Inc local authorities and the steering group. It also has immediate actions and plans whereas WECA
has little tangible reflection of any of this.

It appears that the findings and recommendations of the CSE report and expert knowledge has been
widely ignored.

A terrible failing and waste of taxpayers money.

We want answers!

Regards

Nick Hudson

Statement 7 – Cllr Clive Stevens – Energy Strategy

Dear Chair and Committee

This report was pretty much slated by your own scrutiny commission with as far as I can see only Cllr Mark Weston coming out in favour. He made a point that this is just a framework from which other policies come forward, that means this strategy here, describes and reflects on your leadership and vision towards solving our energy problems.

There is a whole page on leadership p58 which says that local energy strategies should provide leadership and influence. You are all local leaders doing difficult jobs and you will know that it is people that lead, not bits of paper or PDF files.

So I ask you all whether this document before you is an accurate reflection of your leadership qualities?

I'm pretty certain it isn't an accurate reflection of Bristol's. But BANES? Nth Somerset? Sth Glos?

I look at page 74 called "leadership in the public sector". It doesn't even include you as leaders nor your qualities. All four LAs have reducing targets, I and many others would argue they should be quicker, but at least they are falling. So we know you think, and more importantly believe, that energy use has to fall per capita and it needs to be fuelled by renewables. Whether that belief is driven by trying to solve fuel poverty, traffic congestion, air pollution or climate change or all of the above - Yes?

Part of leadership is showing what you are passionate about, articulating that well and walking the talk.

So if you go with Councillor Weston's view that this is an accurate framework or vision and reflects well on your leadership qualities then vote for it.

Or if you think your own leadership is better than this, then send it back to be reworked.

Thank you - Councillor Clive Stevens (Clifton Down ward, Bristol)

Statement 8 – Daniel Nettelfield – Energy Strategy

I don't understand the lack of urgency inherent in your strategy document. Amongst the scientific community there is no debate about how serious a threat climate change poses to life on Earth. The scale of the crisis is immense. The Paris agreement was an amazing global achievement but in the nature of political decision making, is a lowest common denominator. We should be aiming well above the targets it sets. And that is why this energy strategy is so so disappointing, it was an excellent opportunity to be guided by CSE's well researched, regionally specific, thorough and quantitative report. Instead you have ended up with a strategy that has no explicit regional targets let alone timescales. We need to be acting NOW, to keep as much of the remaining fossil fuels in the ground as possible, not waiting for others to move first. It's called leadership.

I would like to know why the CSE report wasn't more closely followed and why so many of its sensible, achievable recommendations have been watered down or completely ignored?

Why isn't there a detailed, dated plan of the actions that need to happen? There are only weak suggestions of options to happen at an unspecified time in the future.

The shift to a zero carbon future isn't an option down the line somewhere, it needs to be happening already, and quickly. Assuming, that is, that you care more about the lives of your children and the survival of billions in less fortunate areas of the globe than the price of shares in fossil fuel companies. I politely ask you to get your priorities right and act now. Please, please think again about your weak, poorly defined, unambitious energy strategy and stick more closely to the ideas, actions and timescales detailed in the CSE report.

Thank you for your time and best wishes,

Daniel Nettelfield,
Bristol

Statement 9 – Cllr Martin Fodor – Energy Strategy

Statement on Item 13, West of England Energy Strategy .

It's an exciting time to see an energy strategy under development in this region. With government funding, the LEP has to

develop its local Energy Strategy. for which it has been granted £50k. the report notes

"Local Energy Strategies should:

- Provide local leadership and influence ...
- towards an integrated, smart, resilient and secure energy system
- towards greater affordability (to alleviate fuel poverty and increase business productivity)
- to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (meeting legally binding national targets)"

Where better than this region?

The West of England is renowned for the wide ranging initiatives for clean energy across public, private and third sectors:

- Many council led energy projects over the last couple of decades, from a local authority owned wind farm, millions invested in photovoltaics, support for tidal power, biomass heating, anaerobic digestion, and inclusive smart energy innovation. The region has attracted EU support for a locally owned energy company that provides benefits to low income households.

- The west of England also has many complementary, thriving examples of community-led energy initiatives: the largest cooperative investor in community led generation projects; a community led inter- seasonal heat storage project; educational initiatives; the model for open homes days that demonstrate retrofitting of existing properties; community led retrofitting of period properties; and dozens of separate, but linked, grassroots projects, who have promoted a Community Strategy for Energy for over 5 years.

- Examples of world-leading private sector renewable energy engineering for offshore wind projects, innovative development with geothermal heating, plus research, investment, and teaching expertise in local universities.

So where better to provide regional leadership and ambition?

So I have been looking for this in the proposals.

I feel very disappointed, so my challenge to you today is to explain how you will ensure you build on the studies you have already paid for to show that leadership. The region could of course, wait, follow, and catch up when pushed by government and international imperatives to cut emissions and switch to clean energy, energy efficiency, storage, and smart systems.

Yet here we are, able to build on years of innovation and implementation in ways that will create opportunities, jobs, build global skills, benefit communities, and eliminate fuel poverty. The work of the joint committee and the LEP can lead the way in capturing the benefits and opportunities across your powers and responsibilities for housing (pushing ambition and supporting retrofit initiatives), transport (eg ensuring adequate smart EV charging infrastructure to stimulate uptake of cleaner, more efficient transport), economic development and skills.

The switch to sustainable, smart energy systems based on local intellectual property, community, public and private investment could give the West of England a head start in solving housing and business energy costs, cleaning air, eliminating traffic congestion, making homes fit for the future, and capturing global markets.

Please therefore explain how the combined authority does plan to deliver on the mission the government has set for leadership and influence.

Cllr Martin Fodor
Redland ward Green Party councillor, Bristol

Statement 10 – David Angel

Dear Councillors,

I'm shocked at the lack of transparency there has been regarding this important energy strategy. CSE's report has been available to WECA since May 2018, yet it was kept out of the public domain until Friday 25th Jan 2019. An eight month delay! And, only released on the same day as WECA's Energy Strategy, which gave the public only the weekend to read the documents and submit questions. It's a disgrace that either show's WECA's incompetence or a deliberate attempt to limit public engagement.

Given the IPCC's Special Report "Global Warming of 1.5 °C" released in October last year, and Bristol City Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency the following month: WECA's Energy Strategy **must** map out a clear pathway to decarbonize. The Strategy as it stands does not. There are no clearly defined, measurable milestones and no commitment to any targets. As such, it should not be approved at the meeting on Friday, 1st Feb 2019.

WECA needs to take this Energy Strategy back to the drawing board. It needs produce a Strategy that commits the region to limiting the ongoing Climate Breakdown and 6th Mass Extinction. Anything is suicidal.

Thank you for your attention in this important matter.

Yours faithfully,

David Angel

Statement 11 – Huw Johnson

In October 2018 the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) issued a report warning that the global community has 12 years to limit climate change catastrophe and limit global warming to moderate levels (1.5-2.0 degrees C temperature rise).

My opinion is that, at the local level, we must work constructively towards mitigation of this situation and the development of robust fit-for-purpose energy strategy is a vital part of this.

I have read the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) report "Towards a sustainable energy future for the West of England". I find it a detailed and compelling expert proposal of the changes to our energy system that are needed to help the UK achieve its legally binding carbon emission reduction target whilst ensuring energy costs are affordable and also that socio-economic benefits of a clean growth future benefit the West of England region. The ideas and solutions seem to be well-understood and of course are being implemented in other more progressive parts of the world.

So I find myself baffled, astonished and, to be honest, angered, by WECA's "West of England Energy Strategy" report that is proposed for approval on 1st February 2019.

The Energy Strategy (Appendix 1) appears to be just a twenty page PowerPoint presentation. It contains only five short pages describing what WECA actually intends to do and these are couched in terms so vague and non-committal that they give no clear sense of what the outcomes might be.

I simply cannot believe that WECA seriously expects citizens of the region to consider this sufficient as an "Energy Strategy" appropriate to the climate emergency that we are facing. This is not fit-for-purpose as a statement of WECA leadership's intended actions to which they should be held responsible as part of democratic local governance.

Where are the commitments to targets? Why are the objectives so poorly and loosely defined?

For example (from Improving our Homes):

- * "All homes to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target where practical, cost-effective and affordable" does not commit to meet the government's 2035 target.
- * "Increase the number of homes and businesses taking up renewable heat opportunities" could be "achieved" if just one more home took up renewable opportunities.
- * "Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions" does not specify in any way what "minimise" and "maximise" might mean.

Why have so many of the recommendations of the CSE report been ignored? Why is there no explanation of why the recommendations of the CSE report have been ignored?

In terms of the climate and environment, we are in a critical period in history.

I am appalled to find WECA's "Energy Strategy" a travesty, not fit-for-purpose and a complete failure in democratic local governance.

Huw Johnson

Statement to the West of England Joint Committee meeting on Friday 1st February 2019 regarding the West of England Energy Strategy.

I am making this statement in a personal capacity.

My background

I'm a founder and director of Bristol Energy Cooperative. BEC has over 500 members, owns £11million of solar and battery assets, and employs three people. Projects currently under development include hydro, solar and community microgrids. BEC has facilitated over £200,000 of community benefit payments to the local community. It's a member of the Bristol Energy Network and Bristol Green Capital Partnership.

BEC has also spent significant time assessing the feasibility of carbon neutrality for the UK. The Centre for Alternative Technology has been researching this since 2007, and in 2014 published research showing how the UK could run on zero emissions by 2030.

This led BEC, in 2016, to initiate, with Foot Anstey LLP and SLR Consulting, a collaboration to accelerate the zero-carbon transition in the West of England. It's called Zero West, and is bringing together renewables developers, community groups, the four West of England local authorities, transport providers, food growers, education, arts, financiers, lawyers, IT specialists, PR companies, and other interested parties. Zero West was established as a Community Interest Company in April 2018, and is aiming to launch to the public this Spring.

The WECA energy strategy

I believe the WECA energy strategy being presented today doesn't fully reflect the urgency of the climate crisis or the need to adopt a war-footing approach in response to this challenge. It is also unclear how many of the excellent recommendations in CSE's thorough report have been accepted.

The strategy also doesn't inspire. It doesn't promote the great opportunity we have here to transform people's lives for the better. It doesn't shout about the amazing world-wide renewable energy revolution that's well underway.

Technology

Not long ago, England got its power from 50 large power stations. Now, there are a million renewable energy installations across the country, and the UK now has more renewable generation capacity than fossil fuel generation capacity (41.9 GW versus 41.2 GW, in Q3 2018). **Solar and wind are now cheaper than fossil fuels.** In parallel, rapid developments in energy storage and smart integrated technologies are transforming the way renewables can be stored and used to balance supply and demand. Local companies are playing a leading role in this.

Seismic changes are also underway in the decarbonisation of transport and heat. All the major vehicle manufacturers are now putting their focus on electric cars, vans and trucks. The Chinese city of Shenzhen has fully electrified its bus fleet, with 16,000 e-buses for its population of almost 13 million people. The latest generation of electric cars can put electricity onto the grid as well as charge from it.

Re. heat, Wales and West Utilities (the gas distribution system operator for our region) and Western Power Distribution (the electricity distribution operator for our region) have recently completed a ground-breaking pilot of smart hybrid heating systems. These combine an air source heat pump and high-efficiency boiler with smart optimising controls to provide flexible switching between renewable power and green gas. Imperial College analysis of the pilot concluded this could be the lowest cost pathway to fully decarbonise residential heat.

We can also dramatically improve our energy efficiency through working with people like Energiesprong. This is a revolutionary approach to whole-house, whole street, deep retrofit done at scale using a model developed in the Netherlands. Its schemes use the very best energy efficiency standards, and the money saved on future energy bills and maintenance is used to pay for the initial works. The retrofits are quick to install: a complete house makeover is usually done in a week and residents don't need to move out. Energiesprong is now active in the UK.

All the above technologies can be used in our region, and Zero West is currently working with partners on a number of them. These include Energiesprong, smart-grids, electric buses and local energy supply.

Another key project is offshore wind, where Zero West has established an expert coalition to develop schemes in the region. It's estimated that 3GW of offshore wind capacity can be developed in the South-West.

This would produce approximately 11 TWh of energy per year. In comparison, the annual combined electricity and gas consumption in the West of England area (comprising Bristol, BANES, North Somerset and South Glos) is approximately 11.5 TWh.

The sea off the South-West coast is particularly suitable for floating wind turbines, which can be deployed in depths greater than 60m. Although this technology is less well developed than the fixed-foundation turbines used in other UK offshore regions, it has the potential to rapidly reach cost parity with them. The technology also represents a potential international market 4 times that of fixed offshore wind. Zero West is supporting an initiative led by the Cornwall & Isles of Scillies LEP to secure revenue funding and project leases for pilot floating turbine schemes in the South West. The aim is to roll-out 1GW of commercial-sized schemes in the region by 2030, and through developing the corresponding on-shore supply chain, to become a world-leader in the technology.

Data modelling

Zero West is currently working with Wales and West Utilities on a West of England-specific zero-carbon model. This takes data for the current heat and power demand of homes and businesses, then adds projected new demand such as that for electric vehicles. It then compares this total demand with a simulated range of low-carbon supply options. The team is aiming to have a first version of the model completed in March. It will then share it for peer review with the local authorities, WECA and the wider energy community.

Finance

The low-carbon infrastructure we urgently need will cost money of course, but it's there – from institutional investors, the private sector, the public sector and the community sector. The good news is that, paradoxically, the bigger the scheme, the easier it often is to fund. Institutional investment is key, but it only funds at scale. But when it does, the rates are very attractive, eg:

- Transport for London 10-year bond, 2.25%, £400m fully subscribed.
- City of Gothenburg 6-year, 1.455%, 1050 million Swedish Krona raised.

I believe the current WECA energy strategy needs a greater focus on bringing finance providers together. This is probably best done by helping Bristol's innovative City Leap project support a wider geographical area.

Policy

As described above, we know the money to decarbonise is there, but it's currently in the wrong place. Despite supportive council motions about divestment from fossil fuels, the Avon Pension Fund currently has an estimated **2.45%** of its £4.3 billion fund invested in fracking. This beggars belief.

Meanwhile, national energy policy is supporting fracking while killing off support for the solar industry. There was no mention of climate change in the recent budget, but there was a £3bn tax break for oil and gas companies in the North Sea.

If we're to be successful in meeting our zero carbon targets we need local leaders to join local people in strongly opposing negative national policy, to actively promote the better alternatives, and to implement supportive local policies that will enable change to occur.

Working together

No one entity can keep us below 1.5°C by 2030. It needs collaboration.

My key message is that the West of England Joint Committee and the LEP cannot and shouldn't lead on all this. It should focus on enabling it. Our region is a centre of excellence in low-carbon technologies and finance. We know what has to be done, and we are blessed locally with the companies, organisations and people who can, and are, making it happen. We just need to join it all up.

Andy O'Brien
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Information sources

1. UK renewable generation capacity

<https://www.current-news.co.uk/news/uk-reaches-major-decarbonisation-milestone-as-renewables-capacity-leapfrogs-fossil-fuels>

https://www.regen.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/REGEN-Delivering_Smart_Energy_Systems_LO.pdf

2. Falling costs of renewables

<https://www.edie.net/news/10/Historic--unprecedented--astounding--Industry-reacts-to-falling-offshore-wind-costs/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2017/may/10/indian-solar-power-prices-hit-record-low-undercutting-fossil-fuels>

3. Electric buses in China

<https://www.curbed.com/2018/5/4/17320838/china-bus-shenzhen-electric-bus-transportation>

4. Smart hybrid heating systems project

<https://www.wwutilities.co.uk/about-us/our-company/publications/the-future-of-energy-research/>

5. Avon Pension Fund investments in fracking

<https://foe.scot/resource/divest-fracking-councils-banking-gas/>

Statement 13 - Robin Boardman-Pattison

Request from Extinction Rebellion (Bristol) for the West of England Combined Authority to declare a Climate Emergency

This Authority notes:

Humans have already caused irreversible climate change, the impacts of which are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels. Atmospheric CO₂ levels are above 400 parts per million (ppm). This far exceeds the 350 ppm deemed to be a safe level for humanity;

In order to reduce the chance of runaway Global Warming and limit the effects of Climate Breakdown, it is imperative that we as a species reduce our CO₂eq (carbon equivalent) emissions from their current 6.5 tonnes per person per year to less than 2 tonnes as soon as possible;¹

Individuals cannot be expected to make this reduction on their own. Society needs to change its laws, taxation, infrastructure, etc., to make low carbon living easier and the new norm;

Carbon emissions result from both production and consumption;

The West of England Combined Authority has already shown foresight and leadership, now it needs to recognise that our current climate action plans are not enough. The world is on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C limit before 2050; (2, 3)

The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, published last month, describes the enormous harm that a 2°C rise is likely to cause compared to a 1.5°C rise, and told us that limiting Global Warming to 1.5°C may still be possible with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities³;

Public Authorities around the world are responding by declaring a 'Climate Emergency' and committing resources to address this emergency. (4)

This Authority believes that:

All governments (national, regional and local) have a duty to limit the negative impacts of Climate Breakdown, and local governments that recognise this should not wait for their national governments to change their policies. It is important for the residents of the West of England Authority and the UK that we commit to zero carbon as quickly as possible;

Metro Authorities are uniquely placed to lead the world in reducing carbon emissions, because of their capacity to plan across regions for the deployment of renewable energy generation, grid improvements, heat networks and mass transit as well as their influence in leading and directing economic development.

The consequences of global temperature rising above 1.5°C are so severe that preventing this from happening must be humanity's number one priority.

Extinction Rebellion Bristol calls on the Mayor to:

Declare a 'Climate Emergency';

Pledge to make the West of England Combined Authority Carbon Zero by 2025, taking into account both production and consumption emissions (scope 1, 2 and 3);

Call on Westminster to provide the powers and resources to make the 2025 target possible;

Work with other governments (both within the UK and internationally) to determine and implement best practice methods to limit Global Warming to less than 1.5°C;

Continue to work with partners across the city and region to deliver this new goal through all relevant strategies and plans;

Report to Full Council within six months with the actions the Mayor Mr Tim Bowles and Combined Authority will take to address this emergency.

References:

1. Fossil CO₂ & GHG emissions of all world countries, 2017: <http://edgar.jrc.ec.europa.eu/overview.php?v=CO2andGHG1970-2016&dst=GHGpc>
2. World Resources Institute: <https://www.wri.org/blog/2018/10/8-things-you-need-know-about-ipcc-15-c-report>
3. The IPCC's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C: <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/sr15/>
4. Including US cities Berkeley: <https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/6/13/berkeley-unanimously-declares-climate-emergency> and Hoboken: <https://www.theclimatemobilization.org/blog/2018/4/25/hoboken-resolves-to-mobilize>, and the C40 cities: <https://www.c40.org/other/deadline-2020>
5. Scope 1, 2 and 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol explained: <https://www.carbontrust.com/resources/faqs/services/scope-3-indirect-carbon-emissions>

Statement 14 – Dave Tudgey

Bristol Energy Network (BEN) has been working across the city region for almost a decade. We represent over 20 local groups delivering projects that incorporate Smart technologies, hard to reach groups, disadvantage, fuel poverty, thriving energy coops generating one of the largest energy coops in UK Bristol Energy Cooperative 9.3MW as well as 3.5MW Low Carbon Gordano, community investment, retrofit, energy storage, education, community engagement, behaviour change, training and skills and providing the national model for energy efficiency retrofit doors open day.

In 2018, as a leading community energy network organisation we hosted the *People's Day* element of the Government's National Great Green Britain Week. The event, held during the week the Clean Growth Strategy was launched, was attended by Claire Perry, Energy Minister. The event also marked the 5th anniversary of the Bristol Community Strategy for Energy <http://bristolenergynetwork.org/legacy/strategy/> and also marked the IPCC publishing its report on 1.5°C, indicating that the need for rapid decarbonisation is much more urgent than previously understood; with only 11 years to achieve a 45% global carbon reduction (compared to 20% under a 2°C target)

BEN is currently producing a best practice report with Bristol City Council BEIS Community Energy England and Business Energy Industrial Strategy funded by Power to Change as to how communities and local authorities can work together.

In February 2018, BEN and several member organisations participated in a stakeholder engagement event for the WoE energy strategy study being delivered by CSE, whose report was complete in May 2018.

The UK Government's response to the IPCC 1.5°C report was to ask the Committee on Climate Change to advise on increasing the UK's carbon target to 100% by 2050 (currently 80% by 2050). Given that the original target was set in 2008, and low carbon technologies have advanced rapidly since, it is widely expected that they will recommend this more ambitious target.

Locally the response to the IPCC report was for Bristol City Council to declare a climate emergency and increasing the ambition of the city's carbon target significantly to net zero carbon by 2030 (including indirect emissions). Similar declarations have been made in Greater London, Brighton, Scarborough, Stroud, Forest of Dean, Greater Manchester, Nottingham, Cornwall and others, with administrations of all political colours represented.

The new information on the dangers of climate change and need for even more urgent action, alongside the national and local responses to that, mean that elements of CSE's report are already out of date (such as the proposed overall carbon reduction target). The delay in progressing the strategy heightens the challenges in achieving the targets therein for the near future but this can be addressed in future documents.

We also note that the WECA 2019-20 business plan has an objective to "Develop and agree an Energy Strategy to set priorities for a resilient, low carbon and affordable local energy system." We believe the ambition level can be increased across the sub-region.

BEN and its members strongly support the CSE study as the basis of an energy strategy and make the following recommendations:

1. The development of the full energy strategy should be rapid, transparent and inclusive. It should involve non-political governance, including representatives of the community energy sector, and have a clear timetable.
2. The proposed targets and objectives in the CSE draft strategy should be brought into line with the latest recommendations from the IPCC 1.5°C report, CCC advice on net zero (when published), increased local ambition and the reputation and competitiveness of the sub-region.
3. WECA's 2019-20 business plan should include the **delivery** of key actions as set out in the CSE draft strategy.

In addition we recommend the following actions for Strategy, Housing, Transport and Community Energy:

Community Energy:

- Currently community energy is in a hiatus because there are no supporting mechanisms for communities to develop new projects with no finance to set up projects.
- Community Energy projects can be self-financing, removing the need for financial support from external parties. However in order to do this, financing of set up costs, for example getting workable projects to planning stage. Various mechanisms have enabled this in the past, e.g. Urban Community Renewables Fund and Rural Community Energy Fund, Bristol Community Energy Loan Fund & Bristol Energy Community Energy Fund
- BCC is developing a city fund, part of the remit exploring the potential of offering development finance to bring forward new renewable energy projects. However this is not at the scale to bring about significant change and we therefore encourage dialogue to develop an approach at a West of England scale.
- The most effective model is a non-political partnership approach bringing stakeholders from public, private, and third sector around the table to steer the region's strategy, advise on funding and support to release projects and replicate success stories, and set timelines that drive clear deliverables.

We will be publishing our best practice report here in the coming weeks but also presentations can be found demonstrating the leadership and capacity of community energy in south west as well as nationally <http://bristolenergynetwork.org/energy-transition-conference-2018/>

In the government's own report on during Great Green Britain week stated:

"The power of communities can really help to fast-forward the UK's clean growth strategy and drive clean growth. Community energy is a critical part of the wider energy system, with

over 200 communities already generating their own energy or improving energy efficiency. Community energy projects can cut emissions, improve air quality, create jobs and make better use of local skills and resources to drive clean growth.”

Green GB & NI, HM govt = <https://greengb.campaign.gov.uk/>

Recognising the government’s own position on Community Groups, as echoed by Claire Perry in this region, BEN would like to see the joint committee incorporate these messages into its strategy - firstly by involving community energy groups in the governance of the strategy to help steer the relevant actions, secondly by building into its action plan the range of delivery projects which the community energy sector can and will be able to create locally with the appropriate support.

These will help deliver a quantum of energy outcomes which would otherwise not be delivered.

Strategy

- All projects brought forward and supported by the Joint Committee and the LEP should have carbon reporting stretch targets, aiming for the 2030 deadline as a condition of funding
- The Energy Strategy must recognise the cross-cutting themes of energy, transport, housing, planning and economic development. This means each has to incorporate how energy will be saved – the energy strategy should lead and set ambition for other strategies. In the design stages of other strategies and initiatives of the Joint Committee and LEP should in future set out how it will contribute to the energy strategy and agreed targets. This will ensure energy is integrated into services, developments and facilities across the region and show delivery of the governments Clean Growth Strategy and energy ambitions.

Housing

We strongly recommend that new housing standards be increased as quickly as possible, noting that:

- New build energy statements and carbon calculations are made using an outdated electricity carbon factor which discourages low carbon electricity-based solutions like heat pumps. Although an updated factor will be introduced soon, this will **still** be out of date, given the planned decarbonisation of the national grid. Planning policy should be clear that new homes with gas central heating (or gas CHP communal heating) are not appropriate as this locks in continued fossil fuel use for at least 15 years.
- New build homes are often not built to their design energy performance, they can consume 2-3 times that value. Planning policy should include a requirement that homes achieve the designed energy performance, demonstrated by post-construction air tightness and thermal testing.

- Even "zero carbon" homes (London definition) are not zero carbon, because this excludes consumption from appliances. An updated standard should include the emissions from appliance AND electric vehicle charging.
- It is now clear that local authorities CAN set standards higher than building regulations.^[1] The London Zero Carbon Homes policy has also demonstrated that these standards have no significant impact on viability

Energy use in transport

“Transport is the largest consuming sector representing 40 per cent of total energy consumption in 2017”. More energy is used in transport than in the service and industry sectors combined, and 28% more than the domestic sector^[2].

This is therefore a critically important and growing area that needs further development that has not been explored to date. Furthermore the development of low carbon transport can help economic growth of the sub-region and help give it a competitive edge. The very challenges of the current system, with some of the highest congestion in the country, could put us in pole position to develop solutions that make it a leader nationally. What the balance is in terms of smart solutions, Electric and hydrogen fuel vehicles, active travel modes and reducing the need to travel is out with the expertise of the Bristol Energy Network but there are plenty of other actors locally to advise on this area.

Conclusion ?

Therefore we urge that the WECA committee:

- to provide an overall leadership role by setting ambitious and inspirational vision, building on the WoE's existing work and high reputation
- To recognise that the task is to create a very low carbon economy and therefore to ensure that all WECA policies and strategies reflect that
- And to enable collaborative working by convening key players across the public,, private and community sectors to develop the strategy and the action plans that need to flow from it, recognising that leadership in delivery will come from that range of key players and cannot be delivered by WECA alone.

Only through working in the spirit of collaborative processes will achieve the meaningful deliverables needed within a timeframe and the demands set before us. The WECA committee will set the scene for what gets done for years to come, and we ask they recognise the interconnected issues and opportunities, we look forwards to hearing the deliberations and level ambition, reflecting the mix off policies and commitments in the various authorities.

If a risk assessment was to undertaken at this stage of the process it would show that we have a “window of opportunity now”, opting to put off implementing the strategy will create many costs and disbenefits for years to come if we don't act fast.

[1] <https://www.ukgbc.org/news/government-confirms-local-authorities-can-set-energy-standards-beyond-part-l-in-nppf/>

[2] https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/729317/Energy_Consumption_in_the_UK_ECUK_2018.pdf

JOINT COMMITTEE – 1 FEBRUARY 2019

QUESTIONS

The following questions were submitted by the deadline (full details enclosed):

- 1. Joanna Wood - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 2. Sam Morris - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 3. Callie Gauntlett - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 4. Vickie Morris – Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 5. Richard Parker - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 6. Marie Banks - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 7. Nick Banks - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 8. Lucy Hellier - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 9. Paul Cooke - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 10. Jen Witts - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 11. David Angel - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 12. Elizabeth Greenland - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 13. Michael Kain - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 14. Alexandra Reuer - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 15. Daniel Nettelfield - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 16. Judy Drinkwater - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 17. Stephen Drinkwater - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 18. Rachel Butler - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 19. Cllr Clive Stevens (Bristol City Council) - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 20. Cllr Martin Fodor (Bristol City Council) - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 21. David Tudgey - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 22. Tom Owens - Subject: West of England energy strategy**
- 23. Gaby Solly - Subject: West of England energy strategy**

Questions from Joanna Wood

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

I have been a Bristol resident for over 30 years.

Given that the Bristol City Council has recently declared a Climate Emergency, how will WECA ensure the Energy Strategy allows BCC to hit its ambitious target of carbon neutrality by 2030? Further to this, and given that climate change will affect us all, will WECA as a whole declare a climate emergency and set the same ambitious target?

REPLY:

The level of ambition, set out within the Strategy, reflects both national legislation and locally agreed policy across the West of England. The Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Sam Morris

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Lack of detail in strategy document

Given that the CSE report, commissioned by WECA, was released in May 2018 and has been withheld from the public until now I'm shocked at the lack of detail in the strategy when compared to the CSE energy report and the Regen strategy evidence documents. There is nothing in the strategy document that gives any real detail on how the WoE region will implement any of the recommendations made. I would like to know in detail, how this strategy intends to meet the following objectives as set out in this very short, non-committal and underwhelming document:

- **Reduce energy use in commercial and industrial buildings across the region by at least 20% by 2030 from a 2015 baseline.** - How will this be achieved? How long will this take? How will it be managed, what will the cost be and who will bear them?
- **Recycle waste heat produced in industrial processes to provide benefits to local businesses and populations** - How much heat needs to be recycled and by what means, in order to achieve the proposed targets; how long will this take; how will it be managed; what will the cost be and who will bear them - will there be any funding and if so how much?
- **All homes to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target where practical, cost-effective and affordable.** - what does 'where practical, cost effective and affordable' mean in this context? In the strategy document, where are the figures that explain what is and isn't affordable. What determines the 'practicality' of getting homes to meet the target. Please provide more evidence and figures to explain this target and how it will be met.
- **Improve energy efficiency in all households identified as fuel poor by 2030** - How will this be achieved and what type / scale of improvement is this objective looking to achieve?
- **Increase the number of homes and businesses taking up renewable heat opportunities** - How many homes will need to take up renewables and by when in order to meet the target. What is the cost and what is the proposed time frame?
- **Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions [JSP policy 5, point 6]** - How will you minimise the demand? Can you provide me with more detail on how this objective will be achieved?
- **Reduce energy consumption in transport** - Transport seems to be the region's largest energy consuming area (according to the graph on the page 'how we use our energy'). What specific target does WoE need to get down to and what schemes are in place to achieve this reduction?

- **Create the enabling conditions to increase new ULEV vehicles registrations** - This needs to happen very rapidly; what are the conditions that are required and how does the strategy intend to increase registrations. Please provide some detail.
- **Enable increased use of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles (ULEV) for users of strategic road network** - How will this be funded and how long will it take?
- **25% of electricity generated in the region supplied by local renewable generation by 2032** - Does this go far enough to enable BCC and other counties in WoE to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030?
- **The West of England to develop its position as a leader in smart energy** - What further measures are required to ensure that WoE is able to continue development in this area?
- **UA's have different carbon emissions reductions targets measured from different baselines** • **BANES reduce carbon emissions 80% by 2050 on a 1990 baseline** • **Bristol reduce carbon emissions by 60% by 2035 on a 2005 baseline** • **North Somerset reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2035 on a 2014 baseline** • **South Gloucestershire reduce by 50% by 2025 on a 1990 baseline** **The aggregated carbon emissions of the West of England UA's reduced by 50% by 2035 (on 2014 levels)** - All of this is too little too late. The IPCC report (October 2018) states that in order to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°, global energy production needs to be have net carbon emissions of zero by 2050. All the counties within WEJC need to update their targets in line with the findings and recommendations of the IPCC report.
- **Take ambitious action to catalyse low carbon market in the regions** - What actions specifically? How will low carbon markets be encouraged and incentivised in the region?
- **Actively engage stakeholders to deliver actions and sustain a common strategic purpose and mutual benefit from collaborative action.** - Will there be any form of public consultation to ensure that the public is engaged and on board with the proposals (whatever they may actually be - it's not explained in any detail in the strategy) and that the wider community understand the pace and scale of the changes in policy and infrastructure required to achieve real and rapid benefits?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Callie Gauntlett

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

New building local carbon potential:

I can't find any information in the strategy on the specific steps that will be taken to ensure that new housing in our region achieves the huge reductions in energy demand in buildings and equipment that are outlined in the CSE energy report? Also, how will the strategy enable WoE to achieve the necessary current carbon reduction targets?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy, reflects both national policy and local policy to ensure that new housing in our region achieves reductions in energy demand. The Strategy states that new housing should: 'Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions [Joint Spatial Plan policy 5, point 6]'. More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Vickie Morris

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Heating in commercial and industrial buildings

Given Bristol City Council's recent declaration of a Climate Emergency and their commitment to become carbon neutral by 2030, does the objective of reducing "energy use in commercial and industrial buildings across the region by [only] 20% by 2030 from a 2015 baseline" go far enough to allow BCC and the other WoE counties to achieve this ambitious carbon neutral target?

There isn't sufficient evidence or detail in the strategy document to outline how this will be achieved. Please can you provide me with some more information on this objective, how it will be achieved and what real, evidence based reductions (in energy consumption) it will bring? Shouldn't the target be more ambitious given that (as indicated on the strategy page 'How we use our energy') a huge proportion of the region's energy consumption is taken up by heating?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy, including energy efficiency measures in commercial buildings.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Richard Parker

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

With regard to the recently published WECA Energy Strategy, I would like to pose the following question for the Committee's consideration:

Can you give me some further information on how local communities will be supported and assisted with the integration of sustainable energy in Neighbourhood Plans.

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Marie Banks

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Shift to renewable

I was pleased to see that one of the goals of the WECA energy strategy is for 85% of electricity supply to come from clean sources by 2032. Although I was also pleased to see an objective to increase local renewably sourced electricity generation from 13% to 25% by 2032, I would like to know more detail about how WECA plan to achieve the 85% by 2030 target when the majority of its electricity will still be sourced from outside the WECA area? I would also like to know what is considered a 'clean source' of electricity in this context?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Clean energy is energy that is produced from sources that do not produce greenhouse gas emissions during production.

'85% of electricity supply from clean sources by 2032' is a national goal.

Questions from Nick Banks

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Housing

As stated in the WECA energy strategy, 105,500 new homes will be built by 2036, increasing energy demand across the region. Regarding the objective for 'All homes to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target where practical, cost-effective and affordable', Could you please clarify where all new homes will be required to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target? Given the urgency of climate change, and the environment, social and economic benefits of tackling domestic energy use, why is the strategy's aim not for all new builds to be carbon neutral?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy, reflects both national policy and local policy to ensure that new housing in our region achieves reductions in energy demand. The Strategy states that new housing should: 'Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions [Joint Spatial Plan policy 5, point 6]'

Questions from Lucy Hellier

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

I read the WECA energy strategy summary with interest this weekend. There are some really good objectives in there, however I feel that the strategy overall is too weak to achieve the dramatic shifts in energy production and energy efficiency required to achieve Bristol City Council's zero carbon by 2030 ambition. My question is: why is the energy strategy not more ambitious? Also, why is strategy so lacking in any real detail on how it will achieve its objectives and when will the public be able to see more detail on the strategy?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Paul Cooke

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Why is the WECA energy strategy 'aligned to the national Climate Change Act [2008] timeframe', when it is now 11 years since that Act came into force. The vital importance of rapid and systematic changes to our energy systems (to prevent catastrophic change by limiting global temperature increases to 1.5degree Celsius) has been widely recognised, including by the majority of WECA residents. The IPCC report which was released in 2018 paints a bleak picture of what will happen should we not take the necessary steps required to limit global temperature increase. In light of this report and the growing sense of concern among citizens, Bristol City Council recently declared a 'climate emergency' and committed to becoming a zero carbon city by 2030? Will WECA redraft the energy strategy not only to ensure that our region is seen as a global leader in low and no carbon energy but also to secure a safe and stable future for future generations?

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework for local action. Should national legislation change because of the IPCC report, the Strategy framework will enable us to scale up activity as required.

The Strategy will be continuously reviewed to ensure it reflects the national legislative position.

Question from Jen Witts

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Bristol Smart Energy City

Simon Roberts of the Centre for Sustainable Energy recently said that Bristol needs to “lead through example and ensure that national and corporate smart energy policies and initiatives embrace city-scale action and truly reflect the public interest”. The Bristol Smart Energy City Collaboration is working towards making this a reality in Bristol. Can you provide some further detail on what smart energy policies and initiatives the WECA energy strategy incorporates to allow partner counties to follow suit?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Question from David Angel**Subject: West of England Energy Strategy**

I have some questions about the Energy Strategy for the Joint Committee Meeting on 1st Feb 2019. Please see below:

IPCC report - policy context

The policy context page mentions the recent UN IPCC report. This IPCC report states, in no uncertain terms, that the global community needs to make immediate and unprecedented changes in the way we use and generate energy in order to limit global temperature increase to 1.5°C. Why aren't the plans outlined in the energy strategy more ambitious? The recent CSE energy report made some specific and bold recommendations on how the region needed to change its methods of energy use and generation in order to limit warming to 1.5°C which include:

- a complete shift to very low or zero carbon electricity generation, mostly renewable and much of it decentralised;
- smarter and more flexible management of demand, including storage, to enable higher penetration of variable renewable generation and to optimise electricity system operation;
- huge reductions in energy demand by improving significantly the energy performance of our buildings (across all sectors and all tenures) and the equipment and processes within them;
- decarbonisation of heat (for buildings, hot water and industrial processes);
- a dramatic rise in use of electric vehicles and other steps to cut the carbon emissions of road transport (as electricity is decarbonised);
- ensuring new build developments achieve their full low carbon potential and contribute effectively to a smarter energy system.

There is no real detail in the strategy; it is too loose and doesn't contain enough detail that will commit the region to any real targets to combat climate change. As such the document serves only to provide a loose idea of what the WoE 'might' work towards not what it will actually do in real well defined terms.

Given that the IPCC report calls for "unprecedented changes in all aspects of society" and states that "the next few years are probably the most important in our history" I feel that this strategy is woefully lacking in ambition and won't achieve any real benefit in the limited time we have left; with only 12 years to limit devastating global warming the strategy should be bolder and should provide the specifics on how the WoE region will be working to achieve some ambitious goals in an incredibly short time-frame.

My questions are:

- why does the energy strategy not contain ambitious targets, inline with the recommendations of the IPCC;
- why is there no firm commitment to reach these targets;
- does WECA not believe the IPCC report, which states we need to radically reduce CO2 emissions over the next 12 years;
- if WECA does not believe the IPCC, why not; and,

- if WECA does believe the IPCC, why is it failing to act upon their recommendations?

REPLY:

The level of ambition, set out within the Strategy, reflects both national legislation and locally agreed policy across the West of England. It provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Should national legislation change because of the IPCC report, the Strategy framework will enable us to scale up activity as required.

The Strategy will be continuously reviewed to ensure it reflects the national legislative position.

Questions from Elizabeth Greenland

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Wider commitment to recommendations

How does the energy strategy link to the other aspects of carbon emission reduction (transport, waste, land use etc)? Why is there nothing in the strategy that commits the WoE to the overarching recommendations outlined in the CSE report?

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework for local action, including a commitment to accelerating the shift to low carbon transport.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Michael Kain

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Housing

As stated in the WECA energy strategy, 105,500 new homes will be built by 2036, increasing energy demand across the region. Regarding the objective for 'All homes to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target where practical, cost-effective and affordable', Could you please clarify where all new homes will be required to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target? Given the urgency of climate change, and the environment, social and economic benefits of tackling domestic energy use, why is the strategy's aim not for all new builds to be carbon neutral?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy, reflects both national policy and local policy to ensure that new housing in our region achieves reductions in energy demand. The Strategy states that new housing should: 'Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions [Joint Spatial Plan policy 5, point 6]'

Questions from Alexandra Reuer

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Bristol Smart Energy City Collaboration (BSECC) has the principal goal of establishing a workable approach to overcoming the challenges associated with a city-wide energy system, and improving understanding about how such a system can be put to work in the public interest, rather than being narrowly defined by commercial, technical or policy constraints.

I would like to know:

1. How does the WECA energy strategy link in with the BSECC?
2. What provisions are in place to ensure that the strategy will provide locally generated, carbon-free energy at a fair price, and that it will help to prevent fuel poverty in the long term?

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy states: ‘smart energy is an emerging opportunity and potential area of strength for the West of England. The West of England to develop its position as a leader in smart energy’.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy; this will include engagement with relevant partners and local stakeholders.

Questions from Daniel Nettelfield

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Re. Local Engagement

The energy strategy should not only be bold and forward thinking but should also allow for local public and business engagement and participation. What measures are included within the strategy to ensure that it will deliver a coordinated and ambitious set of initiatives for the region that will disrupt the incumbent-dominated market, and deliver some true financial as well as environmental benefits to WECA counties?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Judy Drinkwater

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

As a resident of South Gloucestershire I am concerned about the following issues in your Energy Strategy Report:

Increase in Renewable Energy Sources

Why is it not policy to mandate that all new builds should be fitted with either heat pumps or solar panels in lieu of gas/electric heating, removing the get out clause 'practical, cost-effective and affordable'? This would facilitate achieving the goal of the WECA energy strategy of having 85% of electricity sources from clean energy by 2032.

Housing

Regarding the objective for 'All homes to meet the Government's 2035 energy efficiency target where practical, cost-effective and affordable' could you please outline which areas are destined for new build energy efficient homes and which are not, and why? If an area is not suitable 'or cost-effective' for carbon neutral energy efficient builds, why is planning permission allowed?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy, reflects both national policy and local policy to ensure that new housing in our region achieves reductions in energy demand. The Strategy states that new housing should: 'Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions [Joint Spatial Plan policy 5, point 6]'

'85% of electricity supply from clean sources by 2032' is a national goal.

Questions from Stephen Drinkwater

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

As stated in the WECA energy strategy, the intention is to build 105,500 new homes by 2036, increasing energy demand across the region. The objective for 'All homes to meet the government's 2035 energy efficiency target where practical, cost-effective and affordable' is commendable, but house builders are profit driven organisations with huge resources to ensure their returns are maximised. How can we be confident that these targets will be robustly enforced? A house builder is very unlikely to consider cost-effectiveness or energy use over the lifetime of a building.

Given the urgency of climate change, and the environment, social and economic benefits of tackling domestic energy use, why is the strategy's aim not for all new builds to be carbon neutral?

REPLY:

The basis for a West of England Energy Strategy, reflects both national policy and local policy to ensure that new housing in our region achieves reductions in energy demand. The Strategy states that new housing should: 'Minimise energy demand and maximise the use of renewable energy, where viable meeting all demands for heat and power without increasing carbon emissions [Joint Spatial Plan policy 5, point 6]'

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Rachel Butler**Subject: West of England Energy Strategy****CSE REPORT**

Why has the CSE report not been made available to the public until now (the same day that the strategy is released)? The energy strategy should be shaped and guided by the recommendations and findings outlined in the CSE and there have been repeated calls (on record at WECA / WEJC meetings) for the report to be made public, but these have been ignored. Why has such an important document not been made public sooner and why, given the level of detail in the report, is the strategy so scant on detail? The report has been in WECA / WEJC's possession for 9 months and runs to nearly 90 pages of well researched evidence and well-defined recommendations; the strategy on the other hand runs to just 22 pages and contains next to no detail.

Given the scale of change required to our energy infrastructure, why has it taken so long (with access to so much information), to produce such a vague and non-committal energy strategy? This is such an important strategy that should pave the way to a zero-carbon energy future for the south west and at the moment it falls short of the mark both in terms of detail and vision.

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Towards a sustainable energy future for the West of England – CSE, is published as a background document alongside the basis for the West of England Energy Strategy.

Questions from Cllr Clive Stevens (Bristol City Council)

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Dear WOE Joint Committee

Regarding Agenda item 13, the LEP Energy Strategy, I have some questions if I may. Zero carbon energy is so critical to all our futures: economically, health-wise and for fairness, so I think it worth really understanding this region's strategy. Thank you.

Q1) The report at page 52, point 2.2 gives a kind of mission statement to your overall energy direction: "A diverse, resilient and affordable energy system that enables economic growth and reduces greenhouse emissions".

-Would the Joint Committee agree to change the final three words please from "reduces greenhouse emissions" to "eliminates net greenhouse emissions"?

Q2) The 2017 Government's BEIS grant that paid for this strategy states: "An important aspect of the Local Energy programme is the facilitation of peer-to-peer collaboration and learning between LEPs and local authorities, and contact between local areas and central government on relevant issues"

-In what ways has this money, approx £50k, been used to facilitate peer to peer collaboration and learning? And what peer-to-peer learnings were incorporated?

Q3) The 2017 letter continues: "The new funding for capacity support is intended to complement this existing activity, by providing LEPs and local authorities with additional resources and expertise to undertake the initial stages of energy project development, up to a point where they are able to attract capital investment."

-I can't see anything in the strategy that takes an energy project development to a point of attracting capital investment. Why has this not been done? Is this lack of project definition in breach of the grant objectives?

Q4) Page 57 (Policy Context) lists the IPCC 1.5degC report yet that seems to be the last we hear of it. And it doesn't include Bristol's new goal for 2030. On page 58, the report states the strategy should meet legally binding national targets. We all know that climate change is an international issue and so you should be thinking internationally, we also know that the Climate Change Act 2008 (80% cut by 2050) is based on out of date evidence.

-Why have the IPCC guidelines and Bristol's 2030 aim been left out of the "strategic objectives" that run from pages 70 to 74? Should the strategy be updated? And if so when?

Q5) The Regen report (p77 onwards) seems very good and comprehensive. At page 88 it highlights a technology gap (low carbon heat solution for properties currently on natural gas but not on the heat network).

-Is this something you will be commissioning research and development at our local universities or will the technology be developed elsewhere?

Q6) Page 91 shows the energy use by Local Authority (including transport). If you then divide these figures by the population you get the following energy use per person per year:

Sth Glos = 25MWhr/head, Bristol = 15MWhr/head, Nth Somerset = 22MWhr/head and BathNES = 16MWhr/head

Energy usage seems to be higher in rural areas and this is a picture that applies nationally too. Rural areas do grow food for city dwellers, and for that I thank them, but does this explain all the difference.

-What are the reasons for the higher energy usage in rural areas?

Q7) Bristol airport and air transport: It is not clear if air transport is included in the transport analysis. Emissions related to flights in and out of Bristol Airport are predicted to grow to 1.1 million tons of CO2 and because this is mainly high in the sky it has a forcing effect. Allowing for that effect it is the same level of climate damage as a city of 300,000+ people.

-How can allowing airport expansion, when fossil fuels are still used to power planes, be compatible with low-carbon energy strategies?

Q8) I note that University of Bristol have estimated their carbon footprint for air travel as 22,000 tons a year and have just started a program to find out ways to reduce this.

-What help can WECA and WOE JC provide our universities to reduce their carbon footprints?

Q9) The Centre for Sustainable Energy Report, CSE, (starts page 117) is also pretty good and shows how setting challenging targets can lead to economic growth. In this case it would be zero carbon economic growth which, as long as the benefits are shared out, is growth of the very best kind. The only people it harms are those with vested interests in the status quo. CSE estimate a need for £10m of revenue and a recirculating loan of £5m (relative small fry really) to achieve the 10 point plan. This plan is summarised on p124.

-As the CSE report is a background paper, I am unsure whether the recommendations from it are incorporated in their entirety into the WOE JC Energy Strategy?

-And if not, which bits are excluded?

Q10) Jobs growth. In a low or zero carbon economy one of the targets will be to grow jobs in low carbon sectors (for example, equipment reuse or installing better heat insulation and the like), a key metric to help define the new economy would be a metric of tons CO2 per job, so for example jobs at the airport would have a high CO2 per job and jobs fitting solar panels or installing electric charging points would have a low or even a negative CO2 per job.

- Would you consider using a metric like this to help define good, sustainable growth and bad growth?

REPLY:

Q1) *The level of ambition, set out within the Strategy, reflects both national legislation and locally agreed policy across the West of England. The Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.*

Q2) *This question refers to the wider Department for Business Environment and Industrial Strategy local energy programme, which includes Local Energy Strategies and Energy Hubs. Grant funding for the Local Energy Strategy was spent in accordance with the grant conditions.*

Q3) *This question refers to the South West Energy Hub, which is a different programme of work.*

Q4) Should national legislation change because of the IPCC report; the Strategy framework will enable us to scale up activity as required.

The Strategy will be continuously reviewed to ensure it reflects the national legislative position.

Q5) More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Q6) The energy studies commissioned do not include this level of detail, however there could be a factor that determine differing energy use, including transportation, light, age profile and heat.

Q7) Aviation emissions are the responsibility of national and international Governments; and not part of Governments requirement of Local Energy Strategies.

Q8) As above.

Q9) More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy; where relevant this will include consideration of the evidence in the CSE study.

Q10) More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy; this will include consideration of targets against each action.

Questions from Cllr Martin Fodor (Bristol City Council)

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

I welcome the commitment to leadership and influence in the proposed strategy.

My questions are related to the proposals for action, however, which would be needed to deliver a sustainable strategy in keeping with such leadership:

1. How will the strategy take on board the local commitments like the Bristol (unanimous) council declaration of a climate emergency and commitment to carbon neutrality for the city by 2030?
2. How will the LEP prioritise the acceleration of the take up of energy efficiency, smart energy, energy storage, and renewables,
3. What steps will be taken to ensure the Joint Transport Plan is able to deliver the emissions reductions that are needed to meet the targets of the region, given how far astray it is from the targets that matter?
4. How can the strategy ramp up the energy efficiency of the domestic and office sectors, especially existing buildings, given how much each improvement (and low energy bills) would benefit the local economy (estimated at £440m by 2030, from the energy bill of £1.5bn - source CSE).

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from David Tudgey**Subject: West of England Energy Strategy**

Bristol Energy Network, which represents over 20 member community energy organisations in Bristol and the wider area, welcomes the West of England Energy Strategy and studies, having participated in the stakeholder event in 2018, as a basis for strategy development and detailed action planning. Local community energy plays and will continue to play a fundamental role in our future energy system and it flourishes through a strong partnership between local authorities and their communities. We request therefore that the governance arrangements for the next stage of action planning include independent community energy representatives? This will ensure that this partnership working thrives and that the aspirations and needs of the community energy sector are at the forefront, as envisioned by Claire Perry MP, when she spoke at our Energy Transitions conference in Bristol in October 2018.

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy; this will include engagement with relevant partners and local stakeholders.

The accountability for the West of England Energy Strategy is in line with the WECA Constitution [<https://www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Item-9-WECA-constitution.pdf>].

Questions from Tom Owens

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

Low Carbon Retro Fits

One of the recommendations of the CSE sustainable energy future report which is referenced in the recent energy strategy, was to “develop some exemplary low carbon retrofits of buildings of high heritage value to demonstrate the effectiveness and appropriateness of selected materials and techniques and to capture the experience within the building conservation supply chain in the region.” I can’t see any reference to this in the strategy would like to know if this aspect of the energy future report has been considered in the strategy. Also, what detailed plans are there to ensure that retrofits are effectively implemented on a wide scale throughout the WoE region and in what timescale?

REPLY:

The basis for the West of England Energy Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

More detailed action planning will begin once the West of England Joint Committee has agreed the basis for a West of England Strategy.

Questions from Gaby Solly

Subject: West of England Energy Strategy

I am alarmed by the IPCC's report highlighting the need for urgent action to tackle our global climate crisis and respect Bristol City Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and its determination to become climate neutral by 2030. I would like to know how WECA can adequately support this crucial local aim with its current energy strategy only demanding a 50% carbon reduction, and whether WECA will be supporting other regions in the authority to join with Bristol and take urgent action on our local energy usage and carbon emissions?

REPLY:

The level of ambition, set out within the Strategy, reflects both national legislation and locally agreed policy across the West of England. The Strategy provides a high-level framework that will help us to shape activity, and guide investment priorities. It offers flexibility, allowing councils and other stakeholders, to deliver at a scale and pace that fits with commitments and local policy. It provides a basis from which we can bid to Government, and other funders, for investment.

Should national legislation change because of the IPCC report, the Strategy framework will enable us to scale up activity as required.

The Strategy will be continuously reviewed to ensure it reflects the national legislative position.

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