

REPORT TO: WECA OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE: 23 JANUARY 2019
REPORT TITLE: ENERGY STRATEGY UPDATE
DIRECTOR: JESSICA LEE – HEAD OF STRATEGY & POLICY
AUTHOR: HELEN EDELSTYN, SENIOR POLICY MANAGER

Purpose of Report

1. To update the Committee on the draft Energy Strategy for the West of England.
2. The Energy Strategy is due to be submitted to the 1 February West of England Joint Committee for sign-off.

Background / Issues for Consideration

3. In Spring/Summer 2017, the Government (Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy) awarded all LEPs £50,000 to develop Energy Strategies. The funding forms part of the Government's commitment to a diverse, resilient, affordable and clean energy system that reduces greenhouse emissions, as set out within the national Clean Growth Strategy. The West of England Joint Committee has overall accountability for the funding, as it is LEP funding.
4. The purpose of the West of England Energy Strategy is:
A diverse, resilient and affordable energy system that enable economic growth and reduces greenhouse emissions.
 - Upgrade energy infrastructure to underpin clean and inclusive growth.
 - Drive energy efficiency measures to keep costs down for businesses and local people (increasing productivity).
 - Increase the local production of clean energy that is sustainable and resilient.
 - Invest in science, research and innovation, including energy storage and grid technologies.

Success will mean cleaner air, lower energy bills, lower emissions and greater economic security.

-
5. The Strategy is aligned to the national Climate Change Act [2008] timeframe and covers the period to 2050.
 6. At the meeting, officers will present and talk through a presentation that sets out the evidence narrative and strategy recommendations. This presentation pack will effectively become the Energy Strategy for the West of England.
 7. Engagement with constituent authorities and key stakeholders has helped to shape the development of the Energy Strategy. This has included a workshop to test the evidence base as well as a series of one-to-one sessions with Directors and Sustainability officers on the attached presentation over the last few weeks.
 8. The intention is that the Energy Strategy will be submitted to the West of England Joint Committee on 1 February for sign-off. It will then be submitted to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
 9. Once the strategy has been agreed, work will begin on action planning and the implementation of the Strategy. Ongoing oversight and governance will be provided by existing WECA and LEP governance structures (WECA Directors; Chief Executives; Infrastructure Advisory Board; Overview & Scrutiny Committee; Joint Committee). Action planning and implementation will be co-ordinated by WECA officers though responsibility for delivery will be wider.
 10. A full note will be taken of the committee's discussion following the presentation, in order that any comments can be submitted to the 1 February Joint Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the committee receives a presentation on the Energy Strategy and formulates any comments for submission to the 1 February meeting of the Joint Committee.

West of England Combined Authority Contact:

Any person seeking background information relating to this item should seek the assistance of the contact officer for the meeting who is Ian Hird / Tim Milgate on 0117 332 1486; or by writing to West of England Combined Authority, 3 Rivergate, Temple Way, Bristol BS1 6ER; email: democratic.services@westofengland-ca.gov.uk