

Committee:	Cabinet	Date:	12 July 2018
Title:	Endorsement of Local Energy East Strategy		
Portfolio Holder:	Cllr Susan Barker, Environmental Services Portfolio Holder		
Report Author:	Mark Wilson, Energy Officer, 01799 510511	Key decision:	No

Summary

1. Uttlesford District Council as one of the member local authorities of the Greater Cambridge/ Peterborough LEP has been invited to formally endorse the Local Energy East Strategy. The LEP hopes that all authorities within the area will become involved.

Recommendations

2. To endorse the Local Energy East Strategy.

Financial Implications

3. There are no financial implications from endorsing the Strategy. Commitment to the development of related projects in the future will be subject to the usual budgetary processes.

Background Papers

4. The following papers were referred to by the author in the preparation of this report and are available for inspection from the author of the report.

Uttlesford Local Plan 2018
Local Energy East Strategy

Impact

- 5.

Communication/Consultation	
Community Safety	
Equalities	Reduce fuel poverty for residents and increase sustainable energy employment opportunities
Health and Safety	Reduce fuel poverty for residents, improve air quality

Human Rights/Legal Implications	None
Sustainability	Supports sustainable economic growth, reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality
Ward-specific impacts	None
Workforce/Workplace	None

Situation

6. This strategy has been co-created by a range of local authority officers and specific stakeholders within the LEP, borne out of the Government's Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy which both present significant opportunities at a local level to capitalise on local energy growth initiatives. The strategy sets out collective ambitions across the LEP to 2030 which include: clean economic growth, reducing carbon emissions, creating flexible energy systems, developing renewable energy opportunities and reducing fuel poverty. These will ensure the LEP remains at the forefront of clean growth.

Benefits to Uttlesford

7. The ambitions and objectives of the Local Energy East Strategy closely align with the principles of sustainable economic growth including minimising the demand for resources and mitigating and adapting to climate change and reducing carbon emissions, improving air quality, growth of sustainable transport and the growth of renewable energy and low carbon technologies. These principles are set out in the local plan that the council is proposing to submit for examination. The ambitions are mirrored in the Council's Climate Local Strategy.
8. Endorsement of the Local Energy East Strategy will provide interpretation and direction to delivering the Government's Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy locally.
9. Endorsement of the strategy will also enable the council to have access to and receive support from a BEIS funded Local Energy Hub. The tri-LEP area LEE Network and the Greater South East Energy Hub will take forward activities and initiatives linked to the Local Energy East Strategy.
10. As a participant the council will share in best practice through access to case studies, access to joint projects, the development of funding bids between partners and attract funding over a wider area. For example, this could involve working with local partners, including local authorities and businesses, to develop bids for funding to help produce innovative solutions to grid capacity constraints in order to unlock growth.

11. One of the key advantages is that this gives the council access to the activities over the county border to the north, particularly with Cambridgeshire and Peterborough where there is huge growth in energy tech and innovation, sustainable transport and the renewable energy sector. This would enable the council to benefit from their work which is already in progress.
12. The council is already delivering several elements of the Strategy. It has installed solar panels on its own housing stock and other buildings, and is developing an auction scheme for domestic solar panels. We are installing electric car chargers and developing a scheme with ECC for the provision of on-street charging posts. It is already delivering a domestic and business energy switching scheme, and energy efficiency grants for improvements to existing buildings. It has encouraged the development of Passivhaus properties to an exemplar standard for energy efficiency in new build.
13. The new local plan has a policy requiring electric car chargers on new build, and encourages the installation of solar panels and high energy efficiency standards in new build development. There will be a requirement for exemplary provision in the proposed garden communities.
14. Our existing program of delivery and policy commitment to addressing sustainable issues as a partner organisation is reasonably well advanced, putting the council in a similar position to peer organisations within the LEP.
15. Work has just commenced with Localis a consultancy commissioned by Essex County Council to help prepare a Local Industrial Strategy for West Essex. By being part of the Local Energy East Strategy and sharing knowledge and best practice there is the opportunity to shape this LIS. It affords the opportunity for the council to shape both the West Essex LIS as it emerges, as well as engaging with the LEP areas to the north in developing solutions to sustainable economic growth.

Risk Analysis

16.

Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Mitigating actions
Reputational risk if we don't engage with partners on projects	2 The council needs to strengthen its relationship with Cambridgeshire authorities	2 Potentially a lost opportunity	

1 = Little or no risk or impact

2 = Some risk or impact – action may be necessary.

3 = Significant risk or impact – action required

4 = Near certainty of risk occurring, catastrophic effect or failure of project.