

Update from Solent LEP

LEPs across England were invited to apply for BEIS funding to develop local energy strategies or to develop the energy evidence base, for their respective areas. The outcomes of this work should include:

- a clear analysis of the energy opportunities and challenges;
- the identification of energy and low carbon priorities;
- an action plan and funding options to deliver low carbon energy projects.

Solent LEP were awarded funding in 2017/18 and in accordance with the fund requirement and the LEP Assurance framework we sought to commission the work externally and the tender was published through the Portsmouth City Council In-tend procurement system. We received five proposals and based on the published criteria appointed Carbon Trust to undertake the work.

The context within which the Solent Heat and Power Strategy and Action Plan is being developed has also moved considerably with the publication of the Industrial Strategy and the Clean Growth Strategy. Alongside this, BEIS is working with LEPs through regional Energy Hubs, and has split England into broad regional areas, with each region awarded Capacity Funding. Solent has been placed in the South West Energy Hub, with the West of England CA as the accountable body for the £1,030,000 capacity funding.

The Objectives of the Local Energy Hubs are to:

- Increase number, quality and scale of local energy projects being delivered
- Raise local awareness of opportunity for and benefits of local energy investment
- Enable local areas to attract private and/or public finance for energy projects
- Identify working model for teams to be financially self-sustaining after first two years

The proposed tasks of Local Energy Hubs are to:

- Identify and prioritise local energy projects for support, using LEP energy strategies as a starting point
- Undertake initial stages of development for priority projects and programmes
- Take a collaborative and coordinated approach ac
- Regional leadership and liaison with BEIS

The SW partnership will develop priorities for the allocation of the funds based on the actions and recommendations from the SW Energy Strategies. Therefore, the Solent Strategy and Action Plan should develop supporting actions and recommendations to secure some of the available capacity funding to deliver projects.

To support the development to of the Solent Heat and Power Strategy and Action Plan, a steering group has been formed, which includes a representative from PUSH - Jason Light of Eastleigh Borough Council. In addition, we hosted a well-attended workshop in Southampton on 15th March which sought to engage with a range of stakeholders

including Future Solent on the development of the work. Well over 50% of attendees were from the private sector. We have also engaged with MPs in the area on the development of this work.

BEIS are fully engaged in our work as are members of the Steering Group.