

SUBJECT:	MONMOUTHSHIRE LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN
MEETING:	CABINET
DATE:	17th SEPTEMBER 2025
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	ALL

1. PURPOSE:

To note the Local Area Energy Plan prepared by ARUP which considers the potential changes required to decarbonise the counties energy requirements by 2050.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Cabinet notes the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 The Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) considers the existing energy use, supply and demand and sets out the changes required to transition to net zero by 2050.
- 3.2 The plan was commissioned by Welsh Government and produced by ARUP. The development of the LAEP included two workshops with key stakeholders, data collection, scenario modelling and the development of agreed actions.
- 3.3 The outputs of the process are two documents:
The Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan (see Appendix 1)
Supporting Technical Report (see Appendix 2).
- 3.4 The Cardiff Capital Region has aggregated the individual LAEPS of the ten constituent Local Authorities into a Regional Investment Prospectus which is intended to support investment activity to achieve the 2050 net zero target set by Welsh Government.
- 3.5 The LAEP and supporting technical report have been compiled using assumptions to support the scenario modelling. The outputs of the modelling are therefore only indicative, and all projects taken forward will be subject to individual feasibility and viability assessments. The LAEP, however does demonstrate the scale of the challenge to decarbonise energy within the County and will be a useful tool in developing deliverable action plans.
- 3.6 The energy transition requirements identified by the LAEP can only be delivered through a collaborative approach led by Welsh Government through the development of a National Energy Plan.

- 3.7 The LAEP, does propose a number of actions to be delivered by the Council which are set out in Appendix Three, the majority of which are already embedded within existing action plans and strategies.

4. EQUALITY AND FUTURE GENERATIONS EVALUATION (INCLUDES SOCIAL JUSTICE, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING):

The report notes the Monmouthshire Local Area Energy Plan prepared by ARUP and commissioned by Welsh Government. The plan considers the potential interventions that will be necessary to transition the energy system within the County to net zero.

The plan is not a Council plan or strategy and will not directly impact service delivery. Further work will be required before proposed interventions are implemented including updated assessments.

The purpose of the plan is to identify the actions and timescales that will be required to achieve a net zero energy system by 2050. Proposals include improving energy efficiency of existing building stock, increased renewable energy generation and decarbonising heat. The interventions will require collaborative action and the development of a robust green skills economy all of which will derive positive outcomes for the citizens of Monmouthshire.

5. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

- 5.1 As this is not a Council plan or strategy, the Council is limited in its actions. Whilst there are concerns over the assumptions used in the development of the scenario modelling, there is sufficient recognition of the limitations of the outputs and the need for further detailed analysis to support the noting of the plan. The Council is not committing itself to the delivery of the plan, but acknowledges the significant challenges and financial resource requirement that will need to be addressed to achieve net zero by 2050.

6. REASONS:

- 6.1 Monmouthshire's LAEP identifies a baseline position and what needs to change to achieve net zero by 2050. Five energy propositions were agreed at the start of the process which have been used to identify low regret options and energy propositions. The propositions are:
- Improve the energy efficiency of existing buildings
 - Decarbonise transport
 - Generate green hydrogen for transport and industry
 - Deploy onshore renewables
 - Reinforce the electricity network.
- 6.2 The LAEP identified 2023 as the baseline year, providing data on the existing net zero installations and the transition needed to accommodate anticipated energy needs in 2050. The scale of change proposed is significant and will require substantial investment which will need to be derived from both the public and private sectors.

6.3 Some of the targets identified in the LAEP include:

- The installation of 41,000 heat pumps
- The installation of 23,000 public EV charge points
- 1.8GW of ground mounted solar PV
- The installation of rooftop solar PV on 43,000 rooftops

Achieving these targets will involve a significant increase in the pace of change, supported by capital investments and a viable supply chain.

- 6.4 The scenarios modelled within the LAEP do not take into account factors such as planning restrictions or network reinforcement and therefore the data can only be viewed as indicative. The modelling however does demonstrate the complexities of transitioning the energy system and the multiplicity of actors involved. The LAEP is intended to be reviewed every three to five years which should allow for the data and modelling to improve and more robust solutions to emerge.
- 6.5 The CCR have a key role in co-ordinating delivery and sharing best practice. A LAEP Regional Steering Group has been established to support Local Authorities, and they are intending to produce an annual progress report, scrutiny of individual authorities progress will be undertaken by the individual Local Authorities.
- 6.6 Whilst it is accepted that Local Authorities have a key role in convening and engaging with stakeholders and delivery agents, it should be made clear that the Monmouthshire LAEP is an advisory document for the wider County and not a Council strategy or plan.

7. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 Noting the LAEP will not result in any immediate financial implications. There will however be significant investment required to support the implementation of the LAEP to achieve the 2050 net zero target.
- 7.2 The CCR has developed a Regional Investment Prospectus to support private sector investment to deliver some of the stated objectives.
- 7.3 Prior to the implementation of any of the proposed interventions, a full assessment of the financial consequences, risks, deliverability and outcomes will need to be undertaken.

8. CONSULTEES:

Cabinet
Strategic Leadership Team

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None

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11. CONTACT DETAILS:

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