

Hull and East Yorkshire LEP

Paper 8 – NEY Energy Hub

Report to the Infrastructure Board, November 2021

Report from Karen Oliver Spry, Investment Programmes Manager

1. Summary

1.1. This report provides an overview of the LEP's involvement with the North East and Yorkshire Energy Hub and summarises associated Hub activity in the HEY area.

2. Recommendations

2.1. That the Infrastructure Board notes the report.

3. Background

3.1. The North East and Yorkshire (NEY) Energy Hub is one of five local Energy Hubs in England, established, funded and tasked by BEIS to facilitate investment into local energy projects (those which are led by local organisations and located where those that will benefit live and work), provide practical support and capacity for project development and work together to share best practice.

3.2. HEY LEP is one of six constituent partners in the NEY Energy Hub which is led by Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and also includes North East LEP, York & North Yorkshire LEP, West and South Yorkshire Combined Authorities. An Energy Hub Manager and small core team are based in TVCA with a Hub-funded Energy Projects Manager post located in each of the LEP areas to support localised delivery. Representatives from each of the partner areas sit on the Energy Hub Board which meets monthly to oversee progress and discuss challenges.

3.3. The aim of the Energy Hub is to bring together local authorities, businesses, organisations and communities to help achieve local energy goals and deliver local energy strategy. The core role of the locally based Energy Project Managers specifically is to provide additional capacity to identify potential local energy projects and develop them into fundable propositions. For more information see <https://www.neyenergyhub.com/>

3.4. The Energy Hubs are currently funded to 31st March 2023. However, the Government's recently published Net Zero Strategy affirmed its commitment to the Energy Hubs (soon to be rebranded as local Net Zero Hubs) as a vehicle for supporting the transition to Net Zero and it seems likely that the Energy Hubs' remit may broaden as a result. See www.gov.uk/net-zero-strategy

4. Energy Projects Manager Vacancy

- 4.1. The Energy Projects Manager role within the HEY LEP is currently vacant and has been since July when the previous incumbent moved to a different role within the organisation. A previous recruitment exercise was unsuccessful and at the time of writing recruitment for the vacancy is live with a deadline for applications of Sunday 7th November.
- 4.2. The long periods of role vacancy in the HEY area (there was formerly another lengthy period of vacancy from July 2020 to April 2021) has impacted on delivery and presence of the Energy Hub in the HEY area. It has, however been possible to utilise some of this budget to commission work to support strategy development.

5. HEY Activity

Project	Summary	Who involved
LAD2 delivery	<p>Following Green Homes Grant LAD phases 1a and 1b delivered directly by BEIS, Phase 2 has been delivered through the Local Energy Hubs. NEY Energy Hub secured £51.95m in total plus an additional £1m to support Local Authorities in the development of their projects.</p> <p>The scheme aims to improve the energy efficiency of homes of low-income households, help to reduce fuel poverty, phase out high carbon fossil fuel heating, and deliver progress towards the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050.</p> <p>Under the scheme ERYC was awarded £2.16m to install Air Source Heat Pumps in 40 social and 20 private sector dwellings.</p> <p>N.B. HCC did not pursue this funding.</p>	ERYC
OnGen Pilot	<p>The Energy Hub has funded an opportunity for public sector and not-for-profit organisations to pilot an online decarbonisation assessment tool (www.ongen.co.uk).</p> <p>The tool supports organisations to assess the viability of a range of interventions to</p>	HCC ERYC, Hull College, HETA, Bishop Burton College, Wilberforce College

	<p>decarbonise and improve energy efficiency in buildings.</p> <p>Phase 1 was undertaken in October 2020 with 6 Local Authorities (including HCC), focussing on the viability of installing/utilising renewable technologies.</p> <p>Phase 2 is currently underway and provides additional access to a 'sister' tool which models the impact of energy efficiency investments that can be made in a building.</p> <p>Participants receive a detailed assessment report that helps them to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritise interventions • Develop stronger business cases for investment decisions • Secure external funding 	
Circular, biobased construction study	<p>York & North Yorks LEP led this collaborative, Energy Hub-funded project to explore the opportunities for developing biobased construction material sources and supply chains across the Hub area.</p> <p>The report includes some interesting ideas for developing the supply chain in East Yorkshire through companion/rotational hemp planting and utilising wheat/straw crop waste.</p> <p>The final report is published here - www.ynylep.com/strategy-research</p>	York & North Yorks LEP HEY LEP West Yorks CA
Evidence Base to Support EV Charge Point Strategy and Decision Making	<p>Funded with Energy Project Manager underspend, this study was commissioned to support the local authorities with their carbon pathways work and to inform strategy for delivering EV charge point roll-out.</p> <p>The final report is expected in November.</p>	HEY LEP HCC ERYC
Feasibility and options appraisal for symbiosis incubation study	<p>The Energy Hub Board has approved the use of Energy Project Manager underspend to undertake a study that will support development of a circular economy approach in HEY area.</p>	HEY LEP HCC ERYC

	A specification is in development and the study is expected to be procured over coming weeks	
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6. Financial Implications

- 6.1. There is no call on the HEY LEP's core budget to support the Energy Projects Manager role as this is funded by the NEY Energy Hub.
- 6.2. Strategic representation on the Energy Hub Board is not subsidised but is presently undertaken by the externally funded Investment Programmes Manager. This role is currently funded to 31st March 2021. Consideration will need to be given to appropriate representation after this time.