

**Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment**  
Meeting to be held on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Electoral Division affected: All
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**Renewable Energy Capacity study for Lancashire**

Contact for further information:

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**Executive Summary**

There is significant central government interest in the potential for energy generation through renewable sources across the UK, with a national target for 15% of all energy generated in the UK to come from such sources by 2020.

In order to help achieve this target in Lancashire it is recognised that there is a need to increase the knowledge and understanding of the different technologies and their potential for development in Lancashire, among local authority Members and Officers.

The Lancashire Renewable Energy Study builds on existing information to produce baseline reports for each Local Authority area in the County, looking at the potential for different technologies and identifying potential locations. These reports will also be available in a less technical format that will be made available through the web in each local authority area.

This work is being supported by area based workshops to look at potential future scenarios around renewable energy deployment and all information will then be used to inform future planning around this area of work and help with engaging appropriate organisations and individuals.

**Recommendation**

The Cabinet Committee on Climate Change and the Environment is asked to note and comment on the content of this report.

**Background and Advice**

The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) made £1,085,000 available to the North West Improvement & Efficiency Partnership (NWIEP) for 2010/2011 to develop a programme to increase local authority capacity to tackle the causes and effects of climate change in the North West of England. This funding was split into 2 streams, 1 to carry out work at a regional basis (circa £500,000) and 1 to carry out projects at a sub regional level (circa £100,000 per sub region).

The sub regional funding offered 100% support for proposed projects and bids were submitted through the Team Lancashire Programme. The feedback from partners on what Lancashire should bid for was to increase understanding and knowledge around potential renewable energy sources at a local level. To meet this aspiration, Lancashire County Council submitted a bid on behalf of partners to the fund from which £65,000 was secured to carry out the work. Lancashire County Council is acting as lead body and working in conjunction with Team Lancashire to submit claims.

This work will build strategic thinking, understanding and action on renewable energy within each local authority area in Lancashire.

Importantly, the standardised methodology used (recommended by DECC) will enable comparisons between districts and across the region. This is the first time nationally that such comparisons will be possible.

To identify the renewable energy potential for Lancashire the following information has been included:

- Naturally Available Resource
- That which is technically accessible
- Any constraints created by the physical environment
- Planning and regulatory constraints
- Economic viability
- Deployment constraints – how it links to existing networks

The funding will deliver (through external consultancy) localised information identifying the potential for development of renewable energy sources, tailored to each local planning authorities needs.

Each report includes information on the most common types of renewable energy technologies that are currently available along with a glossary of terms associated with this work. It also includes a district council based report that assesses potential capacity across a range of different technologies. There will also be a review of any issues that might restrict the development of renewable energy capacity, for example ability to connect to the grid network. Separately, the National Grid is undertaking its own review about the future upgrades needed to accommodate new generation capacity into the electricity network.

This will be followed by area based workshops to look at a number of future scenarios and offer planning authorities the opportunity to question the consultants on local issues. A document guide for planners will also be produced and distributed to ensure a consistency of information is available in each area. The aim of the project is the creation of a local knowledge base to build the skills and capacity of relevant bodies to respond to the development of large and small scale renewable generation capacity in their area as well as potential issues around the infrastructure requirements in this work. The reports provide valuable information to underpin Local Development Frameworks. The external funding requires this work to be completed by the end of July 2011.

As well as District level information, the work has produced an overall estimate for the potential renewable energy for the whole of Lancashire. This gives a total

potential energy from all sources of 10,613 megawatts (MW) of energy, which can be split into 7,416 MW of electricity and 3210 MW of heat. Within these figures the 2 biggest areas are large scale wind generation and micro-generation. The micro-generation figure would include small scale wind power, solar energy and the use of heat pumps. The figure of 10,613 MW is equivalent to five large coal fired power stations.

All district councils, including the two unitary councils, have welcomed the research and the value it brings.

### **Consultations**

Consultation was undertaken with various authorities to identify what funding should be sought for.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

None

### **Finance**

All funding for the project comes from external sources although there will be LCC officer time involved in it's delivery.

### **Reputation**

Project will help ensure Lancashire Authorities are in a position to deal with future planning issues around renewable energy.

### **Any representations made to the Cabinet Committee prior to the issue being considered in accordance with the Public Notice of Forward Plans**

Name:	Organisation:	Comments:
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N/A.

Paper

Date

Contact/Directorate/Tel

N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A.