

Cabinet Meeting

17th June 2024

Subject:

Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan

Purpose:

To provide information on the finalised Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan

Recommendations / key decisions required:

To note and approve the Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan for publication.

Reasons:

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales to net zero by 2050. The production of Local Area Energy Plans for Welsh local authorities is funded by Welsh Government with a requirement that each Plan is signed-off by the Cabinet of each respective local authority.

Cabinet Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Cllr Aled Vaughan Owen, Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Decarbonisation and Sustainability

Directorate:

Place and Infrastructure

Name of Head of Service:

Rhodri Griffiths, Head of Place and Sustainability

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Report Author:

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY CABINET

17th June 2024

SUBJECT

CARMARTHENSHIRE LOCAL AREA ENERGY PLAN

Background

1. Welsh Government have funded the development of local area energy plans (LAEPs) to ensure every local authority in Wales has a LAEP by mid-2024. This follows several local authorities being pilot locations, plus Pembrokeshire which produced a LAEP in 2022 as a condition of funding for their Milford Haven: Energy Kingdom project.
2. The South-West Wales Region's LAEPs are being delivered by City Science for Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, and Carmarthenshire.
3. Local Area Energy Planning is a detailed, comprehensive process designed to identify the most effective pathway(s) to decarbonising the local energy system by 2050. The process is led by Local Government and developed collaboratively with defined stakeholders. Although produced separately and tailored to the local landscape, the three LAEPs will be aligned regionally to help ensure consistency.
4. Welsh Government have also funded, for 24 months ending 31/01/2026, the appointment of a Regional Energy Team, consisting of an Energy Project Manager, and two Energy Project Officers. Whilst these posts are employed by the Council, as the lead for the SW Wales Region, they are a regional resource for the four local authorities.
5. A copy of the Carmarthenshire LAEP is attached.

Recommendation

6. To note and approve the Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan for publication.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Rhodri Griffiths** **Head of Place and Sustainability**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets	Bio-diversity & Climate Change
YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales to net zero by 2050, with a system of interim emissions targets and 'carbon budgets'. The Carmarthenshire LAEP contributes towards this requirement. It also advances the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency (March 2019) by identifying the most effective pathway(s) to decarbonising the County's energy system by 2050.

2. Finance

There will be significant costs associated with achieving the decarbonisation of the County's energy system by 2050. These costs will be borne by various organisations, including National Grid (electricity network) and Wales and West Utilities (gas network). No financial commitments are made by the Council as potential projects to be evaluated on an individual basis.

Total cumulative costs for each of the three identified pathways: 'Do Nothing' £24.2 billion | 'Widespread Engagement' £29.3 billion | 'Widespread Hydrogen' £31.6 billion.

3. ICT

ICT will have a significant role to play in helping to achieve the decarbonisation of the County's energy system by 2050. Some of these potential actions are included in the Carmarthenshire LAEP.

4. Risk Management Issues

The Carmarthenshire LAEP is an ambitious document that requires action by various organisations, plus the public, to decarbonise the County's energy system by 2050. This has many inherent risks not least securing the funding necessary to deliver the identified Actions.

5. Physical Assets

Significant reduction in carbon emissions from the Council's physical assets will be required to help achieve the decarbonisation of the County's energy system by 2050. Some potential actions are included in the Carmarthenshire LAEP. These complement the actions included in the Council's Net Zero Carbon plan and Asset Management plan for non-domestic buildings, and in Housing plans for the Council managed housing stock.

6. Staffing Implications

Welsh Government have funded, for 24 months, the appointment of a Regional Energy Team consisting of an Energy Project Manager and two Energy Project Officer posts. Whilst these posts are employed by the Council, they are a regional resource for the four local authorities.

7. Biodiversity and Climate Change

The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 requires the Welsh Government to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in Wales to net zero by 2050, with a system of interim emissions targets and 'carbon budgets'. The Carmarthenshire LAEP contributes towards this requirement. It also advances the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency (March 2019) by identifying the most effective pathway(s) to decarbonising the County's energy system by 2050.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below:

Signed: **Rhodri Griffiths** **Head of Place and Sustainability**

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. Scrutiny Committee request for pre-determination	N/A
If yes include the following information: -	
Scrutiny Committee	
Date the report was considered:-	
Scrutiny Committee Outcome/Recommendations:-	

2. Local Member(s)

N/A

3. Community / Town Council

N/A

4. Relevant Partners

Various partners have been consulted; these are identified in the Carmarthenshire LAEP and Technical Annex.

5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations

Various partners have been consulted; these are identified in the Carmarthenshire LAEP and Technical Annex.

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED	YES - Consulted on the draft Carmarthenshire Local Area Energy Plan.
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Carmarthenshire LAEP – Technical Annex	LAEP – Technical Annex	Sustainable Development Team, 3 Spilman Street, Carmarthen

