

**Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson,  
Interim Executive Director of Place**

Report to:	<b>Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</b>
Date:	<b>09 April 2019</b>
Subject:	<b>Lincolnshire Utility Strategy Next Steps</b>

**Summary:**

Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership have been working on a utility plan, to tackle the lack of utility infrastructure compared to demand, for some months.

The plan is now at final draft stage and members's views on its content, and on linkages that can be made across the service in the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee, will be sought.

**Actions Required:**

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to

1. Consider and comment on the emerging content of the utility strategy, and on the next steps summarised in the report.
2. Identify potential opportunities for joint strategic development, between economic and environmental issues.
3. Identify a member of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee who can join the proposed Energy Expert Panel, and undertake a liaison role between the Scrutiny Committee and the Panel.

## **1. Background**

### Context

- 1.1 In a previous report to the Scrutiny Committee, dated 2/3/2018 there was an update on the progress on the commissioned Utility Study for Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 Since this report there have been a number of developments, which have added weight and knowledge to this initial study.
- 1.3 Following the Utility Study, Greater Lincolnshire was provided with £40K of funding from the Department of Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, to develop an energy strategy for Greater Lincolnshire. The financial allocation was used to develop a matching energy mapping exercise with the Local

Energy East project, and also provide an allocation for a consultant (Metro Dynamics Ltd) to deliver a Greater Lincolnshire energy strategy.

1.4 The Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Lincolnshire County Council is taking a lead on the outlining connections between the economic agenda and the landscape for energy. The Greater Lincolnshire Energy Strategy identifies where other Stakeholders can support/tackle some of these issues, but will also identify where help is needed to take on bigger, grander challenges - and where local actors need to take steps to tackle delivery issues closer to home.

1.5 The vision for energy in Greater Lincolnshire is:

- **To create a sustainable supply of energy, which meets Greater Lincolnshire LEP's ambitions for growth, and business sector development**

The vision is underpinned by four key objectives:

- **Delivering secure, low-cost, low-carbon energy across Greater Lincolnshire**
- **Commercial and Residential Development in capacity constrained areas**
- **A sustainable transport system**
- **A strengthened local energy industry within Greater Lincolnshire**

1.6 Attached in Appendix A, is the Greater Lincolnshire Energy Strategy produced by Metro Dynamics Ltd, which was approved by the LEP Board in December 2018.

1.7 The document outlines a high level strategy, outlining the Greater Lincolnshire area vision, with the establishment of an energy lead on the board to champion these ambitions. Implicit within the document will be the identification of lead partners and the private sector as actual delivery leads.

1.8 Fundamental to this proposed energy transformation for Greater Lincolnshire, will be the need to underpin any future delivery proposals, to show they are:

- Backed by sound and credible local evidence base
- Technically fit for purpose
- Unlock innovation at scale
- Enable best value for business/customers
- Are adaptable to ongoing change

1.9 To maintain a lead for the Greater Lincolnshire LEP on energy, there will need to be a very clear association between investment, utilities, housing, water and waste, through a whole-system approach of delivery. This will provide the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and Lincolnshire County Council with

an ability to provide a steer on the transformation of a future power system architecture, which has a local and real impact.

- 1.10 As the Energy Strategy is a high level strategic document, it is important to articulate more detailed delivery steps with the identification of engagement from relevant stakeholder board, particularly the Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee, One Public Estate Board, Housing Investment Group and Water Management Board, and other local partners, to help with this process.
- 1.11 This is where the proposed Greater Lincolnshire Energy Prospectus and Action Plan will allow a better identification of investment themes that closely align with the Strategic Economic Plan, and emerging Local Industrial Strategy work.

## **2 Important Considerations for our Energy Future**

2.1 The Draft Greater Lincolnshire Energy Strategy aims to put forward, in an accessible way, the way in which we will need to act, in order that we can be pro-active in the transformation of energy for the future.

2.2 The steps can be summarised along the following lines:

1. **Gaining our Greater Lincolnshire energy evidence base** - being the curator of ideas and information, including the linking and developing of research & innovation
2. **Improving our 'Energy IQ' for all** - including promoting the business leadership position on energy for Greater Lincolnshire
3. **Being the convenor of whole-system energy activity for the Greater Lincolnshire area** – in terms of the projects that will lead to an energy transformation

## **3 Draft Greater Lincolnshire Energy Prospectus and Action Plan**

The emerging draft documents are aimed at outlining the direction of travel for the energy transformation for Greater Lincolnshire, which is easily understandable to 'non-technical' experts, and has practical actions linking back to the energy strategy vision and ambitions.

## **4 Next Steps**

4.1 The following activities are outlined as the first steps to creating this Greater Lincolnshire Transformational Energy Movement. These steps are still draft at the present time and will be subject to further refinement during April 2019, based on the comments of this Committee, and others.

### **4.2 *Creating the right environment***

The ability to make the case for energy is vitally important, as it is not well sighted by large swathes of business at the present time. The following

activities are aiming to provide a baseline input, providing the right steerage of the energy vision:

- Delivery of Local Industrial Strategy Evidence Base research and strategic development – March to October 2019
- Appointment of the Greater Lincolnshire LEP Board Energy Lead – June 2019
- Appointment of the Energy Expert Panel to support the Energy Lead on the LEP Board – July 2019
- Engagement of Industry/Professional Bodies to provide external specialist input into the Energy Board– October 2019 onwards

#### **4.3 *Making Energy part of the Greater Lincolnshire area's business DNA***

Supporting businesses in Greater Lincolnshire on energy issues is not to be underestimated, so the following activities are proposed to make this engagement much more meaningful and targeted to business needs:

- Briefing of Growth Hub Advisors on energy issues and the strategy and prospectus, so they are able to advise businesses accordingly– April 2019
- Targeted Business Energy Events Run – September 2019 onwards
- Informative Energy webpages on Business Lincolnshire Website developed, which provide current thinking, and support available to them – September 2019

#### **4.4 Greater Lincolnshire LEP Stakeholder Events:**

There is a need to provide a number of high level events across the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire, looking at the important strategic needs of the area and informing vital stakeholders of both the 'ask', and input needed off them.

Outlined events include:

- Stakeholder Business Plan Event to look at how we develop a robust business case for energy provision within Greater Lincolnshire – October 2019
- Technology Roadshow Event, highlighting energy technologies that are available to business – January 2020
- SME Energy Efficiency Event looking at the future business benefits to be gained– April 2020

#### **4.5 *Setting information base for Greater Lincolnshire***

The importance of having a robust evidence base, to back up energy assertions within the Greater Lincolnshire area, will need the following activities to be put in place, namely:

- Energy Demand Curve Methodology Commission for Greater Lincolnshire– March 2019

- Strategic links into Midlands Energy Hub Commissions and initiatives – April 2019
- Working with open data sources, and enriching the information with local data input where applicable – June 2019
- Setting the technology and innovation agenda needed for energy transformation in Greater Lincolnshire – from October 2020

#### **4.6 Igniting Action within Greater Lincolnshire**

There are also some initial activities, that will be important to kick start the energy delivery, including:

- Supporting the SMARTLincs ERDF bid, being developed by Lincoln University, through to successful full application – November 2019
- Supporting the production of the utility report for Southern Grantham Gateway, being proposed by developers in Grantham – October 2020
- Supporting Greater Lincoln businesses event looking at electricity connections – May 2019
- Setting up brief looking at further energy opportunities at the Energy from Waste plant - April 2019

## **2. Conclusion**

A strong and reliable energy supply is critical to the growth of Lincolnshire. The energy Strategy will help to tackle the challenge, but it will require a concerted effort over many years, to be delivered.

## **3. Consultation**

### **a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??**

No

### **b) Risks and Impact Analysis**

Risk and Impact analysis will be completed once consultations have been concluded.

## **4. Appendices**

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Greater Lincolnshire Energy Strategy

## **5. Background Papers**

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