



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 April 2023
Subject:	Energy for Growth - Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire - Interim Report

Summary:

An Energy for Growth (Utilities Provision in Greater Lincolnshire) report was presented to the Committee in October 2022, and an information report containing an update on progress was circulated for the February 2023 meeting of the Committee. This report expands on one of the intelligence work streams included in the work programme, the Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire study, and the Interim Report completed by the consultants is attached.

The report includes an overview of the Interim Report and any comments that the Committee may have on the Interim Report can be given to the consultants and be considered for the Final Report.

The Economic Infrastructure Team has successfully engaged with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) that operate in the Greater Lincolnshire area. Meetings have been set up throughout the year to discuss Local Authority and DNO strategies that include areas of Growth. These meetings enhance our local intelligence when bringing forward economic initiatives.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the content of the Interim Report on the Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire.

1. Background

Rider Levett Bucknall (RLB) has been commissioned by the Greater Lincolnshire Infrastructure Group (IG) to undertake an Energy Option Analysis (EOA) for Greater Lincolnshire. The commission started in June 2022, and the final report will be presented to the IG by June 2023.

Project Brief

The commission will support and address the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs), see 'Deliverables' below, and then assess the ability of the energy approach identified to meet the demand from growth in the immediate term, and over the next 20 years (incorporating upper employment growth scenarios, which may come forward within Greater Lincolnshire).

Deliverables

The main outcome of this Commission is to answer the following key lines of enquiry (KLOEs):

- To challenge whether the provision of energy genuinely affects viability, differentiating between the levels of National Grid, Local Distribution Network Operator (DNO) and local energy operators – and whether a decision to implement local innovative solutions could deliver necessary local requirements;
- To identify how authorities could work together to build the scale to make an alternative energy offer attractive to the private sector;
- To strengthen the connection between energy and other utility provision, notably digital infrastructure and the internet of things; and,
- To provide a forum for the private and public sectors to collaborate on specific schemes, creating the environment for a strong dialogue that leads to investment in priority sites.

The work will also:

- Identify any significant barriers and/or opportunities relating to the underlying energy provision infrastructure within Greater Lincolnshire (taken at District/Unitary scale as well as Greater Lincolnshire), and provide strategic recommendations on how to redress / maximise those barriers/opportunities including consideration of best practice or emerging examples;
- Identify any significant opportunities within the existing, or potential future energy networks, within Greater Lincolnshire to maximise the opportunity of increased Green Energy/Renewables within the area, including best practice/forward looking examples on how infrastructure development could be forward funded;
- Provide analysis (and increased understanding) of the energy requirements associated with key employment sectors within Greater Lincolnshire (for example Agriculture) and seek to quantify the future impacts as a result of growth within those sectors, or significant changes within them, for example Carbon Reduction in the Food Chain;
- Scope two housing site (suitable examples to be established by the Consultant via discussion with IG Reference Group) opportunities in Greater Lincolnshire where a more collaborative energy approach can deliver commercially viable net zero carbon development and achieve the wider objectives of this brief; and,
- Produce a RAG rating map/GIS layer of Greater Lincolnshire for the network (particularly access to high V lines/infrastructure) that can be used to develop

key/targeted decisions based on the need to secure significant inward investment where this is needed from National Grid/DNOs based on what we know as our overall aims for Growth.

Interim Report

The Interim Report has been prepared by RLB and is included at Appendix A. The key findings are detailed below:

- There is a clear shift towards innovation and alternative energy sources across the region.
- Net zero is a common theme across all sectors, echoed by the shift in energy providers and increase in private investment.
- There is inconsistent collaboration across the region.

In addition to this, the commission has enabled a good working relationship with the two electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), who operate in Lincolnshire and distribute electricity to the end user, Northern Powergrid (NPg) and National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED, formerly Western Power Distribution) to develop. This two-way dialogue will have positive benefits to Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) in terms of increasing awareness and intelligence, and in turn will give the DNOs an understanding of where growth priorities are in Lincolnshire in the short, medium, and longer term.

Next Steps

The Interim Report has been prepared by RLB at a point where they have completed 50% of the commission. The report details additional areas that will be included, and expanded on in the Final Report, to ensure that the project outputs are delivered. Any comments that the Committee might have on the Interim Report can be forwarded to the consultants for consideration in the Final Report (note comments need to be received by 12 April 2023).

A draft Final Report was issued in March 2023, with the final report due to be issued in May 2023. LCC staff will work with members of the IG to explore ways to utilise the information presented in the report to produce a plan of action that will help optimise the benefits to residents and businesses in the area going forward.

2. Conclusion

The commission looks at current and proposed developments in the Greater Lincolnshire area to estimate future electricity demands. These demands have been mapped onto the electricity network to see where infrastructure may have limited capacity in future. This will enable early conversations with appropriate DNOs, and the potential of exploring local innovative solutions to enable 'clean' growth.

The Greater Lincolnshire Energy Options Analysis has allowed the three tier-one, and seven tier-two local authorities in the Greater Lincolnshire area to collaborate, share

knowledge and work together. The outcomes of the Interim Report are relevant to the whole of the Greater Lincolnshire area and this partnership approach has successfully allowed knowledge and understanding about the electricity provision within the area to be gained and shared to support the creation of thriving environments across the area.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Energy Options Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire – Interim Report. Prepared by RLB

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Energy for Growth (utilities provision in Greater Lincolnshire) Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee - 25 October 2022	Agenda for Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 25th October, 2022, 10.15 am (modern.gov.co.uk)
Report for Information – Energy for Growth (utilities provision in Greater Lincolnshire) update Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee - 28 February 2023	Agenda for Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday, 28th February, 2023, 10.00 am (modern.gov.co.uk)

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