

Scrutiny review proposal

1 What is the review?

Community Energy in Southwark – to follow up on the work of former Deputy Cabinet Member, Cllr James Coldwell and to advise on the delivery against Council commitment to: *“support the creation of community led sustainable energy projects on estates to help residents reduce their energy bills”*.

2 What outcomes could realistically be achieved? Which agency does the review seek to influence?

To understand what steps the Council has already taken to support creation of community led sustainable energy projects and to draw on good practice and community expertise to influence implementation going forward.

3 When should the review be carried out/completed?

The hope is that the review can take place during this council term. Applications for the national feed-in tariff close in April 2019 and so there is an urgency to try and move things forward as soon as possible.

4 What format would suit this review? (eg full investigation, q&a with executive member/partners, public meeting, one-off session)

An initial report followed by a roundtable with invited experts who can contribute experience and expertise to the discussion.

5 What are some of the key issues that you would like the review to look at?

- Different approaches to developing community energy schemes on council properties including on estates;
- How we might use the planning system to promote community energy in relation to future schemes;
- How we might be able to work with Housing Associations and TMOs;
- How the council could support greater investment into community energy schemes, including through its pension fund;
- Understanding any blockages and the impact of national government policy on the viability of community led green energy schemes.

6 Who would you like to receive evidence and advice from during the review?

Repowering London <https://www.repowering.org.uk/>

SE24: <http://www.se24.co.uk/>

Community Energy London
<http://communityenergy.london/>

<http://selce.org.uk/> (working in Lewisham & Greenwich)

Any Southwark activists that are seeking to bring forward proposals (could we invite expressions of interest through the committee?)

Invite Cllr James Coldwell to participate in the round table.

7 Any suggestions for background information? Are you aware of any best practice on this topic?

This is a political party document but useful background from the Co-operative Party: <https://party.coop/wp-content/blogs.dir/5/files/2014/12/next-gen-final-web-1.pdf>

Government guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/community-energy>

Community Energy Coalition: <https://www.ukcec.org/about-us>

<https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/london-community-energy-fund?source=vanityurl>

8 What approaches could be useful for gathering evidence? What can be done outside committee meetings?

e.g. verbal or written submissions, site visits, mystery-shopping, service observation, meeting with stakeholders, survey, consultation event

Site visits & meetings with groups across South London (as suggested above)