

Scrutiny review scoping proposal

1 What is the review?

Energy

The review will look at sustainable technologies to help Southwark's buildings meet the Climate Emergency with a particular focus on Community Energy.

This review will follow up on the work of the previous scrutiny review into Community Energy, culminating in a report completed June 2019, and further subsequent work tracking this in the 2019/20 and 2020/2021 iterations of the Environment Scrutiny Commission.

The review aims to assist with the delivery of the Council's commitment to: "support the creation of community led sustainable energy projects on estates to help residents reduce their energy bills".

The review will also look into some of the different technologies available to deliver renewable energy, heat and energy savings not just on estates but across Southwark's buildings including schools, leisure centres, and local businesses. (Previous evidence received suggests these locations are a good fit for solar based Community Energy projects, as the day time consumption of electricity matches energy generation.)

As well as Solar Energy the review will also consider District Heating Networks, the anaerobic digestion of Food Waste and planned expansion of South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP).

Alongside this the review will consider how to reduce the carbon footprint of Southwark's estate and wider built environment by engaging with key stakeholders; including developers and landowners, with a particular focus on reducing energy consumption, retrofitting and opportunities for renewable energy generation.

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

The review seeks to primarily influence the council and to assist the lead Cabinet Member in delivering green energy including via the Community Energy model. The review will seek to provide a forum to explore opportunities, blockages and avenues for delivery of Community Energy, by drawing on good practice in other Local Authorities and community expertise

to positively influence implementation going forward.

Other potential agencies are schools, community spaces and local business who could benefit from Community Energy, as well as Housing Associations, TMOs, local council and social housing tenants, Tenants and Residents Associations and community groups with an environmental, housing, or green energy focus.

The review will also consider how the council and other partners are reducing energy on their existing estate through retrofitting, and how the council and key stakeholders are working together to deliver the highest environmental and energy standards in new developments.

3 When should the review be carried out/completed?

The review will take place this administrative year 2021/22.

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

The review will start with exploration of the council's Climate Emergency Strategy including a presentation and Q &A with the Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development.

The review will seek a suitable forum of engagement with Southwark's developers, landowners and other stakeholder to explore current approaches to sustainable development/retrofit. This will be considered in the framework of the council's Climate Emergency Strategy, with view to laying some pointers towards some of the changes required to meet the council's sustainable development objectives, with a particular focus on energy descent and renewable energy production.

The review will take a look at previous scrutiny work on Community Energy, receiving a recap on progress from officers, and hear from community energy groups with view to plotting a path towards the council's delivery of Community Energy projects in Southwark.

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

- How Community Energy can contribute to Climate Justice and tackling the Climate Emergency

- The current funding model for Community Energy
- Community Benefit Companies capacity to deliver community energy
- The GLA's role in facilitating and supporting Community Energy
- The best sites for Community Energy eg Housing Estates, Schools, Community Centres
- The different renewable energy/heat and energy saving technologies available and how these fit into new development and retrofit models
- Opportunities for the Carbon Offset Fund to invest in Retrofitting and Community Energy
- District Heating Networks
- Food waste and Anaerobic Digestion
- SELCHP expansion and impact on waste generation and emissions
- Sources of government funding that are available or likely to come on-stream for decarbonising and insulating social (council and housing association homes) and private housing (both homeowners and large landlords).
- Exploring the value of Southwark devising an Energy Plan

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

[The Cabinet Member for the Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development](#)

Local authority best practice (e.g. Islington, Lambeth, Hackney, Kensington and City of London)

Developers and landowners operating in Southwark (e.g. Peabody, L&Q, Lendlease, The Dulwich Estate, smaller housing associations...)

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

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

Energy Sparks, an online, school-specific energy analysis tool & energy education programme <https://energysparks.uk/>

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

South East London Community Energy <http://selce.org.uk/> (working in Lewisham & Greenwich)

Mayor of London / GLA work to support Green and Community Energy <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy> including the Solar Opportunity Map : <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/energy-buildings/london-solar-opportunity-map>

Mayor of London / GLA work to insulate and increase low carbon heat and power solutions; including the Retrofit Accelerator <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/energy/retrofit-accelerator-homes>

Construction Declares : a global petition uniting all strands of construction and the built environment. It is both a public declaration of our planet's environmental crises and a commitment to take positive action in response to climate breakdown and biodiversity collapse. <https://www.constructiondeclares.com/> and <https://uk.buildersdeclare.com/>

Greater Brighton Energy Plan - launched in 2020. Its broad membership, led by the Greater Brighton, has world leading thinkers, engineers and enterprises, including local authorities, universities, a world leading engineering firm, airports, ports, buses, major consultancies, utilities companies, Coast-to-Capital LEP, and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). See <https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/documents/s155841/Greater%20Brighton%20Energy%20Plan%20Summary.pdf>

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

Community Energy Coalition <https://www.forumforthefuture.org/community->

[energy-coalition](#)

Community Energy England <https://communityenergyengland.org/>

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>

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

Externally organised events to equip members with background knowledge in advance of meetings of the commission as appropriate.

Roundtable with stakeholders on sustainable development, renewable energy generation and retrofitting.