

Appendix 1

Examples of work going on elsewhere

Derry and Strabane City Council has a Sustainable Development & Energy Strategy. As part of this work they have a joint EU funded project with Donegal County Council. The project aims to develop a regional energy strategy; it is a 3 year project and they are half way through the project. They are currently undertaking a baseline of energy consumption which they will use in the setting of targets within the new energy strategy.

IChoosr is a collective switching scheme that negotiates fixed energy tariff contracts with energy suppliers. It is currently powering the Big London Energy Switch on behalf of 19 London Councils. IChoosr is not available in NI.

EBICO is a social enterprise started up in the late 90s, and its mission has been about one thing only – ‘doing all we can to ensure affordable access to warm and lit homes’. It is open to anyone living in GB and since February 2017 their chosen energy supplier is Robin Hood Energy.

There are several Councils in England who have established not for profit energy companies including: **Robin Hood Energy** was established by Nottingham City Council in September 2015. **Bristol Energy** was established in the autumn of 2015 by Bristol Council and they have invested £15.3m in the company. They aimed to return a profit by 2019 but since trading has commenced they have revised this target to 2021. It is important to note that there are different market conditions in GB and the local authorities are also responsible for housing, so consideration will have to be given to the transferability of these models to NI.

The **Scottish Government** published its Energy Strategy in December 2017. This strategy is up to 2050 and its vision is ‘A flourishing, competitive local and national energy sector, delivering secure, affordable, clean energy for Scotland’s households, communities and businesses.

The **Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland** has a vision for Ireland’s energy to be sustainable, secure, affordable, and clean. It recently launched its Statement of Strategy 2017-2021.

Community energy refers to the delivery of community led renewable energy, energy demand reduction and energy supply projects, whether wholly owned and/or controlled by communities or through partnership with commercial or public sector partners. **Community Energy England** commissioned a State of the Sector report in 2017 – this was ‘A study of community energy in England, Wales and Northern Ireland’. It found that the community energy sector in NI was only initiated in 2012 and is still relatively limited in terms of project numbers, only three community energy organisations were identified within the study. The study also surveyed a sample of 9 local authorities to demonstrate their current community energy activities alongside any challenges and barriers they faced.

APSE Energy was recently formed to reflect the changing dynamics of the energy market in the UK and is designed to bring councils together to share information, ideas, resources, best practice, and to support local energy projects. Working together enables them to exchange knowledge on finance, law, and procurement. It also helps them to gain greater marketplace leverage. Their bespoke Local Authority Energy Collaboration is a partnership developed by member authorities that maximises the opportunities local authorities are currently offered by bringing councils together on a national scale to work on the green energy agenda. Currently, around 60 councils are members of APSE energy. BCC are not currently a member although we have engaged with them on a number of issues.