

Appendix A

Task and Finish group feedback on draft Somerset Energy Investment Plan consultation

Section 2 - Baseline energy trends in Somerset

- Statement on Hinkley updated for new target dates – slipped back slightly.

Section 3 - Somerset energy generation resources

Solar

- Currently 8% roofs (if allocated domestic) and proposing to 60-65% to do this. Don't see the mechanism to get us there. Need some realism to this. Remodel
- Majority of the 8% came in when we had the feeding tariff, will it be as incentivised to this ever again.
- Strong driver for solar and falling costs but driven by the market and so looking at cheapest deployment which more towards solar farms. People will want it (solar on roofs) but payback on high capital cost will continue to be a strong influence. The situation will continue to develop and may improve, including as falling costs of battery storage help to improve viability.
- Doesn't say how much land is currently taken by up by existing solar farms, would like this added in. Also land taken with projected growth in solar farms (interesting to compare to land taken by golf courses*). It is now noted that additional land for large-scale solar is shown as 0.4% of Somerset (App 1 – page 67). It may help to explain if this guides the projection and whether more could be considered.
- Solar car parks are these in rooftop or farms? Think it should be mentioned as an option as well. Mention around the carbon intensity of steel, concrete etc T&F Group would like to see a study to look at business case for solar on car parks, including on net energy/carbon benefits.
- Does CCC and future energy scenario have a split estimate on solar farms v rooftop uptake that influenced the pathway?
- Council opportunities on car parks, done in SSDC (Cara any knowledge?)
- Recommendation 2.2 add in solar as well as retrofit measures on Listed buildings & conservation as well as retrofit. Unless article 4 in place (unsure if correct name) for conservation area, don't need planning so long as stick to guidelines. Good to highlight this. Also see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/energy-efficiency-drive-for-historic-homes>

* <https://www.carbonbrief.org/factcheck-is-solar-power-a-threat-to-uk-farmland/>

Hydro

- Serious revision of rules for run of the river hydro power. EA issue so would need to look to influence.

Wind

- 2016 NPPF planning rules not lifted, complicated needed through neighbourhood plans and local plan. Has NPPF been changed yet? T&F group understand and support comments in report on page 19 to address this through Somerset's new Local Plan, which may address this sufficiently. For Neighbourhood Plans it may be helpful to

provide a link to CSE guidance: <https://www.cse.org.uk/my-community/engagement-planning/neighbourhood-plans/>

- Cheapest form of energy production, needs to be noted.
- Could we be more ambitious on wind in targets? Could it be sensibly raised in light of rooftop figures? New thought: Maybe interesting to note how much is generated and planned in Cornwall (and maybe Wales).

Section 4 - Somerset's Net Zero Pathway

- More context on 45% target + nice if a bit higher, more about national contributions coming in for the other 55% around not being an energy island. I.e offshore wind & nuclear.
- Scope for more wind & solar to increase slightly – linked to points above 45% sounds a low contribution for rural area like Somerset (with space for wind and solar). Could it be higher?
- Pump storage mentioned in energy storage, potential and efficient way to store energy. Large solution rather than response demand.
- Mention limitation of EPCs (based on energy costs) . Use energy demand/intensity as the metric. (LETI used in social housing sector)
- Chart on page 26. Gas has significant contribution at 2050, doesn't match the CCC pathway (6th budget says limited to combustion with CCS for power or industry and phase out for buildings). What is the gas there for? Will gas demand still be needed in Somerset by 2050?

Section 5 - Investment opportunities & next steps

- Can anything be done to influence (on energy planning policies) earlier than the local plan being in place? Wave the flag that the plan can influence pre-adoption I.e heading in that direction. Do work early that will start to have weight in planning process. Mention page 41 on income opportunities for the council from generation investment on council land etc. Doesn't look like it currently is.