



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

From:

Energy Division

Cleared by:

Date:

21/02/2023

MINISTERIAL ADVICE

For decision by: Minister for Climate Change

Subject	List of activities Ynni Cymru can immediately fund during its shadow form
100 word summary	<p>Officials have drawn up a list of activities Ynni Cymru can immediately fund during its shadow form. These activities support communities to expand community-owned renewable energy generation and identify opportunities for smart local energy systems.</p> <p>This advice is for agreement for the Minister for Climate Change for onward agreement with the Designated Member.</p>
Timing	Normal course of business
Recommendation	<p>Officials recommend the Minister agrees to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • commit funding over three years to fund immediate actions to deliver on Ynni Cymru's objectives • • Open a new Budget Expenditure Line for Ynni Cymru within the Climate Change MEG and transfer the agreed ring-fenced budget from the Clean Energy BEL (Revenue) and the WGES BEL (Capital)
Decision report	This decision does require a Decision Report, which may be published at any point.

ADVICE

Background

1. This advice relates to the Programme for Government commitment, reflecting the Co-operation Agreement, to work with Plaid Cymru to scope the establishment of Ynni Cymru, a publicly owned energy company for Wales to expand community-owned renewable energy generation. It proposes some immediate opportunities to resource the scoping work and accelerate delivery of community owned renewable energy generation.
- 2.
- 3.
4. Officials consider the actions proposed have a strong strategic fit with communities and smart local energy systems (SLES), whilst maximising the benefits to the local community and retaining value from local energy sources.
- 5.
6. We propose action in two areas:
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 - Additional funding to Community Energy Wales, to support communities to engage directly with the Local Area Energy Plans being developed by all local authorities, to support expansion of community energy and the development of SLES within the plans.

This will make sure that community voices are directly heard and help shape the plan development, as well as communities understanding the opportunities for locally led action the plans will identify.
7. Collectively these actions will establish a cohort of change agents focused on driving forward new plans and projects aligned with the aims of Ynni Cymru as well as the aligned PfG commitment to an additional 100 MW of generation.
- 8.
9. The table below and attached doc 1, 2 and annex 1 sets out the anticipated costs over the next three years.

	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	Total
Grant to CEW to enable community involvement with local energy plans		£64,000		£64,000

Total				

Recommendation

10. We recommend the Minister agrees to:

- Commit funding over three years, as set out in the table above, to fund immediate actions to deliver on Ynni Cymru's objectives.

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12.

PfG and Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru

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Programme for Government

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16. Indirectly it can also support the commitment to:

- Empower communities to have a greater stake in local regeneration.

Financial implications

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Revenue BELs	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25

Capital BELs	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25

x

21.

22. Officials consider the budget proposal represents good value for money. The proposed activities are aligned with the Welsh Government and Co-operation Agreement aims and deliver directly on two Programme for Government recommendations.

23.

Legal issues, powers & statutory duties

24. No legal advice has been provided in relation to this MA.

Communication or media handling

25. Delivery will require a stakeholder engagement plan, which will be a priority once agreement to additional resourcing is agreed.

26. Officials propose to publicise the announcement, highlighting the decision as an important step in the co-operation agreement. Communications will be progressed with the stakeholders receiving funding once the Minister and Designated Member have agreed to this advice.

27. Following the announcement, further work on stakeholder engagement on Ynni Cymru will be developed with the CCRA comms team, including bilingual development of messages.

Annex 1: ASSURANCE AND COPY RECIPIENTS**CLEARANCE TRACKING**

Aspect	Tracking	Yes	No	N/A	Clearance no.
Finance	Financial implications over £50,000?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Group Finance?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Cleared by Budget & Government Business Division?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	x
	Cleared by Local Government Finance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Legal	Legal issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by relevant lawyers?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Governance	Novel and contentious issues?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Cleared by Corporate Governance Centre of Excellence?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE

In clearing this MA, I confirm that I, x have quality assured this advice, ensuring it is provided on the basis of evidence, accurately presents the options and facts and I am accountable for the recommendations made

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful, affordable and comply with all relevant statutory obligations. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered in line with delivery of the government objectives.

I have fully considered the statement of assurance contained in the MA guidance to ensure all relevant considerations have been taken into account, appropriate impact assessments have been undertaken and that the actions and decisions take account of regularity, propriety and value for money.

COPY LIST

x

Additional copy recipients specifically interested in this advice:

- x