



# **ENERGY - A CLLR'S PERSPECTIVE**

**AKA – GETTING ENERGY UP THE POLITICAL AGENDA  
Cllr Chris (*I am not an expert*) McEwan**

# ENERGY – A CLLR'S PERSONAL PERSPECTIVE

- Making Energy a Personal Priority
  - Why (Drivers and Awakening)
  - What (Vision)
  - How (Tactics)
- Engaging with the Office Class (Cllr v officer) – lessons and hints.....
- Lessons from abroad

# ENERGY - PERSONAL PRIORITY (1a)

## Personal Drivers

- Concern re. energy pricing / fuel poverty
- Concern over energy security post Brexit
- Unrealised alternative income streams for LA's
- Global Green House Gas Emission (GHG)
- Stimulation the green economy and local supply chains

# ENERGY – PERSONAL PRIORITY (1b)

## Awakening – (Realisation and Discovery)

- Municipal Energy – not new / not common now
- Energy revolution underway – citizen/municipal
- Technology revolution
- Councils – done some work - but stalled
- Pricing / innovative financing offers LA opportunity to restart



# ENERGY - PERSONAL PRIORITY (2)

## WHAT (Was/Am I trying to do)

**Idea/Ambition** – Solar Battery System for every new build three years hence

**After Reality check and engagement ..**

**Simply...** develop a Local Policy to create a regulatory framework within Darlington and surrounding areas (Tees Valley) to further mandate the use of renewal energy solutions within residential developments

**As ever – if only life were simple....**



# BARRIERS

- Officer support – competing priorities
- Needs sub-regional approach – we cannot do this in isolation (in Darlington)
- House builders / developers – no incentive for private house builders
- Public Perception – still seen as being either risk, long payback periods or for ‘green’ people
- Regulatory Framework – Moving goalposts



# ENERGY – TACTICS

- ENGAGE ENGAGE ENGAGE
- Use APSE Energy – on pitch and as a resource
- Start gently / do the politics internally and externally
- Identify key stakeholders – lobby and connect
- Make it in non threatening – point to the wider agenda (jobs / fuel poverty) - point to the potential /value – in widest sense
- Make them think it's their idea
- Create a vision of the future that makes sense (no brainers)



# LESSONS FROM ABROAD (1)

Attended 'TWINS - Cities in climate change' International Conference Essen (Green Capital of Europe 2017). Aims:

- Desire by the Ruhr area to seek to positively address climate change through positive cross border engagement
- 200 participants from at least 22 countries in attendance.

Seeking to create:

- Personal encounters between specialists from the areas of environment, climate protection and urban and rural planning
- More than short-term interaction - develop and support the creation of long-term international contacts and working relationships.



# LESSONS FROM ABROAD (2)

## Key Messages

- Smart Cities – the new Garlic Bread
- Decarbonise transport (a call for fewer cars not newer cars) and integrated planning approaches (oh dear Prius versus XC60)
- Renewable energy - consistency of approach needed
- Stop seeking to justify why green buildings should be built and articulate what value they bring
- Public authorities should be role models on this agenda by when undertaking public procurement

# LESSONS FROM ABROAD (3)

## Key personal lessons:

- Challenge is worse than thought but major opportunities
- Need to de-carbonise transportation
- The climate change movement - broad church, with differing foci and interests;
- International networks are critical - not just at governmental level but also LA - learning from best international practice
- Government and municipalities can steer - but public engagement is critical

# PERSONAL CONCLUSION

- World is changing – energy revolution is underway;
- Opportunity to be bold and transformational
- As an LA many reasons NOT to do this but some solid reasons to do it;
  - Real economic case
  - Will meet many priorities: income generation, HWB outcomes, supply chain and micro-investments
- Learn from neighbours and internationally
- Can't do this in isolation – engage neighbours and consider at scale

**Post Note – What is the role of nudge....**



# QUESTIONS