

# **The Big Energy Summit**

## **Communities & Energy**

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# Introducing Quantum

- Sustainability & Environmental Consultants
- Supporting local authorities, businesses, communities and universities – plus our own local community energy groups
  
- Tackling and adapting to Climate Change
- Developing a sustainable, low carbon economy
- Delivering social value
  
- Research & intelligence
- Training & Facilitation
- Business support

# Community Energy – a vibrant sector



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Value in thinking ahead

# A motivated & skilled sector

Community Energy England –  
150 members

Groups all over UK putting time,  
effort and energy in voluntarily

Environmental & community  
motivation

Providing services to tackle fuel  
poverty & energy efficiency

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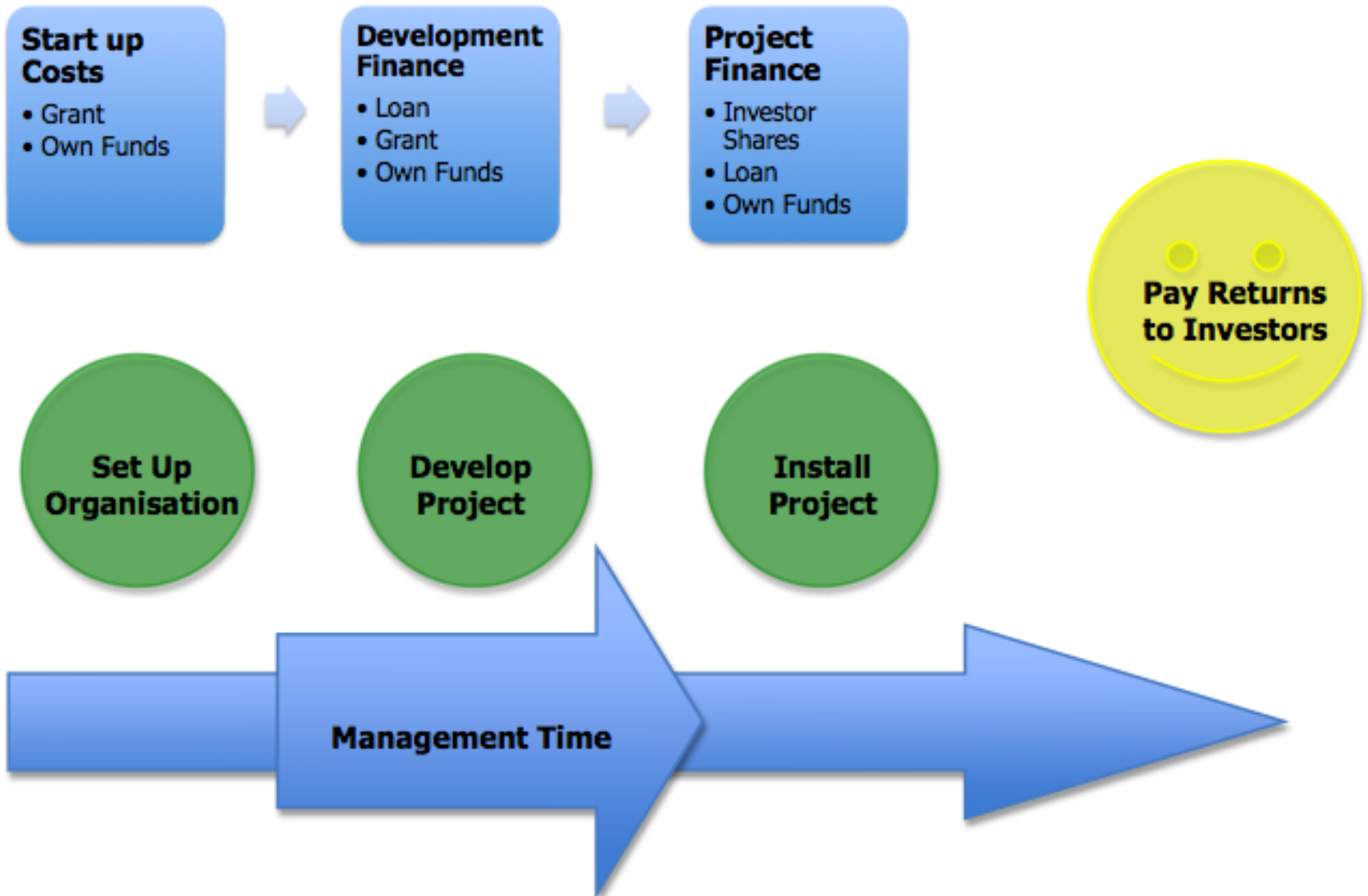


# Projects





# How it works



# Challenges to community energy

- Messy/contradictory policies:
- FCA forcing existing co-operatives to change structure to bencom – cost and hassle to existing groups
- FCA don't expect investors to want a return on their investment
- HMRC changing tax relief rules – EIS and SEIS ending with no clarity on replacement
- Supportive policies:
- Schools & community groups do not need EPC of D+ and can pre-register for FITS could be a big benefit
- Rural Community Energy Fund and Urban Community Energy Fund



# Local Authority role: Obstructive?

- Focus on own LA role (inward looking)
- Fails to see opportunity of supportive community
- Raises barriers – e.g. leases, procurement rules, procedures
- Expects time/energy but does not provide benefit back to the community group
- NB these are volunteers, the LA could be another place to get stuck/waste valuable time
- Solutions to this: work on pilot projects or look at successful examples of LA-community energy
- Just get on with your own projects separately

# Local Authority role: Enabling

- Accessing potential project sites
  - Authority owned land
  - Public buildings
- Policy and publicity support
  - Identifying opportunities – new developments
  - Involvement in renewable energy strategies
  - Planning support
- Financial partnerships
  - Shared investment & returns
- Reducing constraints
  - E.g. schools

# Local Authority role: Enabling

- Warrington Borough Council: Low Carbon Lymm
    - Recognises role of community group
    - Legal team did leases for PV on schools
    - Use of WBC's PV supplier to get existing installer price
  - Plymouth Council – Plymouth Energy Co-op
    - Set up Plymouth Community Energy
    - Loaned £500,000 seed funding pre-share offer
    - Installing 20 PV schemes on schools
  - Rochdale Borough Council
  - Liverpool City Region's Community Energy Guide
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# Contact

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