

## APSE Renewables & Energy Efficiency Advisory Group

Minutes 24 April 2018

### 1. Introduction and Welcome

The chair of the advisory group Councillor Evelyn Tweed opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance to Chatelherault Country Park, highlighting she was pleased to see a healthy number of local authorities in attendance.

### 2. Attendance and Apologies

See attached.

### 3. Minutes of previous meeting – 7 November 2017

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

### 4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

### 5. Have you done all you can with energy efficiency?

Duncan McCombie, Chief Executive of YES Energy Solutions began his presentation by providing attendees with information on the [ECO funding guide](#) which is available on the APSE website, he also signposted attendees to the current ECO consultation which was out but closes on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April. It was agreed that Louise Melville would send all attendees a link to the consultation post meeting. He highlighted the importance of responding if possible but understood that the limited timeframe provided for consultation responses was posing difficulties for local authorities. **Duncan's presentation also included** information around how a local authority can create a Statement of Intent and how this can be used, as well as further information on how ECO funding distributed and how much funding is available. Duncan provided some examples of typical funding allocations in order for attendees to gather an overview of how this can impact on other costs.

Duncan concluded his presentation by providing the group with information on the next phase of ECO. Including highlighting the current phase of ECO (ECO2T) is ending in September 2018 and will be replaced with a new ECO phase which has yet to be determined. This will involve new targets and new criteria for the industry to follow. ECO3 will be preceded by a consultation therefore Duncan noted the importance of local authorities to make their views heard.

Following the presentation there was a number of including ones regarding private landlords.

### 6. **West Lothian's journey towards renewables and energy efficiency** – helping to tackle fuel poverty

Peter Rogers and Euan Marjoribanks of West Lothian Council presented to the group on a number of areas the Council was focusing on regarding renewables and energy efficiency.

This included Peter providing the group with information on a number of Council strategies:-

### Renewable Energy Strategy

This strategy was published in 2012 and committed the Council to adopt renewable energy, where appropriate by Solar PV and Solar thermal, biomass, developing renewable energy and low carbon networks as well as developing data which can be used to inform future decisions on renewable technology installations.

### Climate Change Strategy & Carbon Management Plan

This was approved by Council Executive in November 2015 and commits the Council to reduce emissions by 20% by 2020/21, relative to a 2013/14 baseline. The document is a West Lothian wide document and includes Community Planning Partnerships.

The document also includes the Council vision for tackling Climate Change and sets out a clear structure within the document in relation to managing Climate Change and Carbon emissions.

Before handing over to Euan, Peter then talked the attendees through a number of photographs of renewables and energy efficiency projects which had been completed in West Lothian. These included:-

- Lanthorn Community Centre (SEEP pilot)
- Installation of Solar PV at 12 sites across West Lothian
- Installation of 6 biomass boilers
- 6 ground source heat pump installations

Euan then began his part of the presentation which focused on how the Council is tackling fuel poverty within its housing stock. Firstly, Euan provided some statistics around households living in fuel poverty **followed by some information on West Lothian's housing service. This included information on the Council's ambitious new build programme which will see 1,000 new homes built; commitment from the Council to invest £75m over the next 5 years to improving current housing stock as well as some of the services which the Council provides from its Advice Shop (advocacy on benefits, income maximisation, energy checks and energy efficiency advice).**

Euan then talked the group through a slide highlighting the many influences and support mechanisms which the housing service are involved in, from EESSH (Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing) and HEEPS (Home Energy Efficiency Programmes in Scotland) to FiT (Feed in Tariff) and the DHLF (District Heating Loan Fund).

Euan completed the presentation by providing attendees within information on what energy efficiency initiatives they were completing on their domestic properties including:-

- External wall insulation
- Solar PV installations on 84 properties which are located off the mains gas grid
- Pilot Air Source Heat Pump project to 5 properties with no access to mains gas
- Pilot Ground Source Heat Pump project for 10 properties in Westfield

Again there was a number of questions from the floor including further information on **some of the completed projects as well as how SEEP (Scotland's Energy Efficiency Programme)** had brought housing and property services together for collaboration.

## 7. Unlocking the potential for District Heating and Low Carbon Technologies in new build schools

Our final presentation of the meeting was from Jamie Goth, Associate Director for Scottish Futures Trust. Jamie attended an advisory group meeting in early 2017 looking to gather thoughts from attendees on the barriers, opportunities and challenges around renewables in schools and today is providing an update on this presentation and discussion.

Jamie began his presentation by outlining some of the renewable options for schools highlighting that schools are the biggest energy users in local authorities, these options included:-

### Electricity

- Solar PV
- Wind
- Combined heat and power (biomass)
- Micro-Hydro

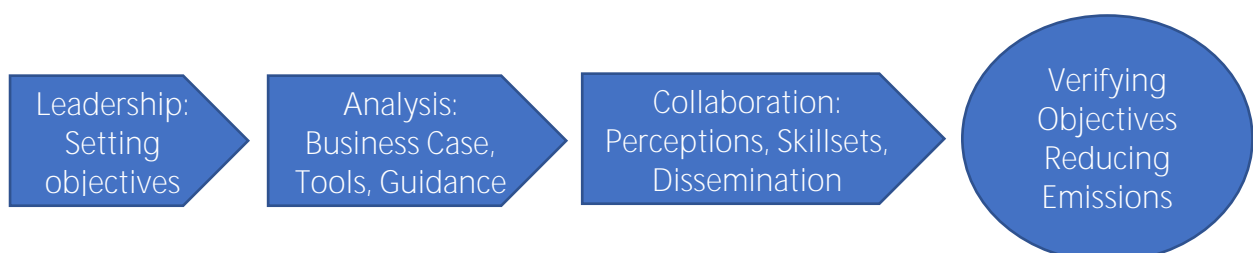
### Heat

- Biomass
- Heat pumps (air, ground and water)
- Solar thermal
- Wind to heat

The next part of the presentation looked at the potential for district heating systems within schools including some of the drivers and targets covering both policy and Organisational. **Following this, Jamie then looked at aligning the project and Council's drivers when looking at newbuild schools.** The 5 main groups of drivers were:-

- Strategic
- Financial
- Economic
- Commercial
- Management

Jamie then went on to map the key actions to be undertaken now for district heating and renewables in newbuild schools.



Jamie concluded his presentation by looking at some of the long-term actions for district heating and renewables in newbuild schools.

There was a discussion within the group around some of the difficulties local authorities were encountering in relation to renewables within newbuild schools.

#### 8. APSE Update

Louise Melville provided the group with an update on all of the recent work of the Association both in Scotland and UK wide. This included information on recent briefings and publications including a number of APSE Energy publications which focus on “Energy across the authority” and “ECO funding”. Louise also provided the group with information on the various areas of advocacy APSE were involved in, including Party Political Conferences. With the latest (SNP conference) which is to be held in Aberdeen at the start of June. As well as exhibiting at the conference APSE will also hold a fringe event on “Local Government Finance: Are we at a cliff edge?”. Finally, Louise provided information on the other services provided by APSE which included an update on the Annual Seminar & Service Awards this year taking place in Edinburgh.

#### 9. A.O.C.B

There was no other business.

10. Date and time of next meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> August, Tollbooth, Stirling

#### Attendees

Name	Council
Louise Melville	APSE
Paul Gillies	Argyll & Bute Council
Janice Pauwels	City of Edinburgh Council
Cllr Donald Basillie	Clackmannanshire Council
Lawrence Hunter	Clackmannanshire Council
Iain McIntyre	Clackmannanshire Council
Kenny Nicolson	East Ayrshire Council
Freya Burns	East Lothian Council
Shona Cargill	Fife Council
Stefan Gerrard	Fife Council
Jamie Goth	Scottish Futures Trust
Cllr Isobel Dorman	South Lanarkshire Council
Kathryn McCafferty	South Lanarkshire Council

Cllr Evelyn Tweed	Stirling Council
Roz Smith	Stirling Council
Euan Marjoribanks	West Lothian Council
Peter Rogers	West Lothian Council
Duncan McCombie	YES Energy Solutions

Apologies

Chris Wood-Gee	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Sarah Farell	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Douglas Evans	Falkirk Council
Janet Archibald	Fife Council