



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

<b>CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY BOARD</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No: 4.3</b>
<b>30 JANUARY 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

## **RURAL COMMUNITY ENERGY FUND – MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **1. PURPOSE**

- 1.1. The Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority is the Accountable Body for the Greater South East Energy Hub that covers fifteen counties and Greater London. The Hub was funded (£1.29m in advance) for two years of operation by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). A fully funded team of seven currently exists, with an eighth team member to be recruited, and is dedicated to local energy project delivery in the Greater South East area.
- 1.2. The Energy Hub has been set up to unlock current restrictions and blockages relating to local energy infrastructure such as technical, financial, regulatory, policy or human resources. By operating the Energy Hub from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough the focus of the Energy Hub in this area is maximised and benefits can be more readily realised.
- 1.3. The Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF) has been in operation since 2013 through the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) but has been closed to new applicants since the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) undertook a review and concluded it would be best offered by local organisations rather than a national one.
- 1.4. Aligning the RCEF with the Energy Hub operation from Cambridgeshire and Peterborough enables greater connectivity with Energy Hub staff and their local stakeholders. This maximises the resultant opportunities to create, initiate and deliver projects locally.
- 1.5. The Business Board approved the principal that the Combined Authority would act as Accountable Body for the RCEF and requested a detailed report on the management and administration of the fund. The Board will receive a report

which explains what BEIS has suggested is the management and administrative structure with full costings.

- 1.6. BEIS will fund the new RCEF programme in the Greater South East Energy Hub area with a £2.9m grant for delivery over a minimum time period of two years with an additional third year possible.
- 1.7 The Business Board will consider the following recommendation at its meeting on 28 January 2019. The Combined Authority Board will be asked at its meeting on 30 January 2019 to approve the recommendation highlighted in bold. The full report to be considered by the Business Board is available at the link below: <http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/business-board/meetings/>

<b><u>DECISION REQUIRED</u></b>	
<b>Lead Member:</b>	<b>Aamir Khalid, Chair of Business Board</b>
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	<b>John T Hill, Director of Business and Skills</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref: 2019/018</b>	<b>Key Decision: Yes</b>
<p>The Business Board is recommended to invite the Combined Authority Board to:</p> <p><b>agree that the Greater South East Energy Hub assumes the RCEF management role, administers the fund and employs the Community Energy Advisor.</b></p>	<p><b>Voting arrangements</b></p> <p>(a) Simple majority of all members</p>

<b><u>Source Documents</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
Agenda and Reports of the Business Board meeting – 28 January 2019	<a href="http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/business-board/meetings/">http://cambridgeshirepeterborough-ca.gov.uk/business-board/meetings/</a>