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Community Support to Deploying Renewable Energy Projects in the Liverpool City Region

Joining up community support outputs and energy infrastructure project mapping

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1 Introduction

Liverpool city region (LCR) successfully secured £100k investment from the Climate Change Skills Fund (CCSF) to support a *'Low carbon legacies for Liverpool city region'* programme (to be referred to hereon in as the LCR CCSF programme). For the purposes of this report, any reference to LCR should be taken as including the Councils of Liverpool, Wirral, Knowsley, St.Helens, Sefton and Halton.

The LCR CCSF programme includes multiple interconnected projects (commissioned by Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service c/o Sefton Council) including but not limited to:

- *'Community Support to Deploying Renewable Energy Projects in the Liverpool City Region'* – delivered by the Energy Saving Trust (February – July 2011).
- *'Mechanisms of Energy Infrastructure Delivery for Liverpool city region'* – delivered by ARUP working in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust (April – July 2011)

This short report aims to join up the community support outputs with the energy infrastructure project mapping. The Energy Saving Trust offered to complete this report at no extra cost to maximise learnings across the entire LCR CCSF programme.

2 Summary of community support outputs

The Energy Saving Trust worked with nearly 60 LCR stakeholders to identify 21 community groups, half of whom agreed to a feasibility assessment interview and 3 went on to receive one to one advice. The 21 community groups identified included Parish Councils, allotment groups, transition towns, local authority lead groups, community centres, faith groups, schools and a dance studio. The spread of the community groups across the 6 local authorities in LCR was roughly even (see Table 1 for a list of the community groups and split by Local Authority area).

Through supporting the community groups, the Energy Saving Trust identified 7 triggers which are incentivising and 6 barriers facing community groups interested in renewable energy schemes. The Energy Saving Trust provided 15 recommendations actions the community groups could take to overcome these barriers.

Many community groups welcomed the work commissioned by LCR and provided by the Energy Saving Trust. The community groups very keen that any momentum generated through this process should not be lost even if no physical or financial resources are available at the close of the LCR CCSF programme. Suggestions for shallow assistance or low cost solutions include:

- making connections and signposting to like-minded community groups around LCR to encourage collaborative work and 'trading' of skills.
- utilising social media websites (i.e. Facebook) to facilitate discussion at minimal cost (i.e. accessing a computer and internet connection).
- LCR stakeholders promotion and cobranding on web sites would make community group projects more attractive to private sector companies (especially utilities).

Table 1 – List and location of community groups engaged	
Community Group	Local Authority area
1. The Avenue Neighbourhood Network	Liverpool
2. Furniture Resource Centre	
3. Rice Lane Community Association	
4. Lister Drive Allotment Society	
5. The Old Schoolhouse	Knowsley
6. Bowering Green Neighbourhood Group	
7. Stockbridge Allotment Society	
8. Knowsley Allotment Group	
9. Communiversity	
10. Chapelfields Community Centre	Halton
11. LOOSE	
12. St Marys	
13. Transition Southport	Sefton
14. Lydiate Parish Council	
15. Maghull Town Hall	
16. Formby Parish Council	
17. Transition Town West Kirby	Wirral
18. Transition Town Eastham	
19. Liscard Community Facilities	
20. Port Sunlight	
21. Ashtons Green Allotment Group	St.Helens

3 Summary of energy infrastructure project mapping

This study has identified and shortlisted 12 projects across the LCR amounting to over £200 million of capital investment (see Table 2 for a list of the projects which includes a summary description of location and existing and future energy users). These low and zero carbon projects have the capacity to generate annually 79,000MWh of electricity and 280,000MWh of heat to the fuel poor and cross sector consumers at competitive tariffs. It is to be expected for projects of scale such as those identified to be developed over a phasing programme of many years. Anything from 5 to 20 years can be expected from the point of breaking ground.

The study identifies these projects as those where there are clear opportunities to explore expansion or the linking of projects to serve a wider community. Some of the organisations driving these projects forward will be in the business of developing energy infrastructure while others will have interests purely for their own local energy infrastructure needs and possible tie-in with their surrounding community.

The vast majority of projects captured are those being brought forward by the private sector. However, the study highlighted the importance for Local Authorities to take a lead role in encouraging the projects, shaping the delivery requirements, assisting the funding process and taking a role in the delivery and operating arrangements of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). Some SPV setups could take the form of a straightforward limited company, a not-for-profit organisation or a cooperative arrangement with public tenants and other community groups.

Table 2 – List of energy infrastructure projects mapped along with energy users		
Project reference	Location	Existing or future energy users
Liverpool – DES 1	West of lime street station to East of Princes Dock's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial buildings • Retail (shopping centres) • Hotels • Town Hall • Law Courts and prisons • Leisure facilities • Residential buildings (flats)
Liverpool – DES 2	Royal Liverpool Hospital Trust, PFI redevelopment & University of Liverpool)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospital • Liverpool University campus • Liverpool John Moores University campus • Liverpool Vision • Liverpool City Council
Knowsley – DES 3	Knowsley Business Park & south of Industrial Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing commercial buildings • Light Industry • New employment land buildout • Energos energy-from-waste plant
Sefton – DES 4	Southport & Formby Hospital area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Hospital • Emerging new college • Residential • Light Industry • Hotel
St Helens – DES 5	Area around Sutton Leisure Centre and Lea Green distribution centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Leisure Centre Sports • College • Distribution Centre • New employment land buildout
Halton – DES 6	Emerging properties Green-field area in Daresbury to West of A56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Business Park • Science Park • New employment land buildout • New residential
Wirral – DES 7	Wirral Waters Regeneration Enterprise Zone (Peel Holdings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial/Office space • Retail & Leisure • Residential (13,000) • Hotels • Energy and waste strategy
Halton – DES 8	Potential regeneration Runcorn Docks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned large residential area • likely requirement for complimentary non-residential spaces
Sefton – DES 9	EMR Gasification - large scale opportunity, Bootle Docks/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy plant with allied energy requirements and commercial case energy export needs
Liverpool – DES 10	Liverpool Waters development (Peel Holdings)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned large Residential and Commercial area
Liverpool – DES 11	Eldonians Low Carbon CHP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various planned developments
Knowsley – DES 12	Jaguar Cars Ltd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CHP possible in 2 years time. • Great potential for business park development

4 Potential for joint working

To determine if the 21 LCR community groups supported have any overlap and potential for joint working (as partners or end users) with the 12 LCR energy infrastructure projects identified, the Energy Saving Trust combined all locations on one single map (see Map 1 – Community groups supported and energy infrastructure projects identified). For easy comparison the Energy Saving Trust mapped the location of the community groups onto the existing ARUP energy infrastructure project map as red markers. If a red marker as an arrow close by this indicates the location of the community group is off map or behind of one the text boxes.

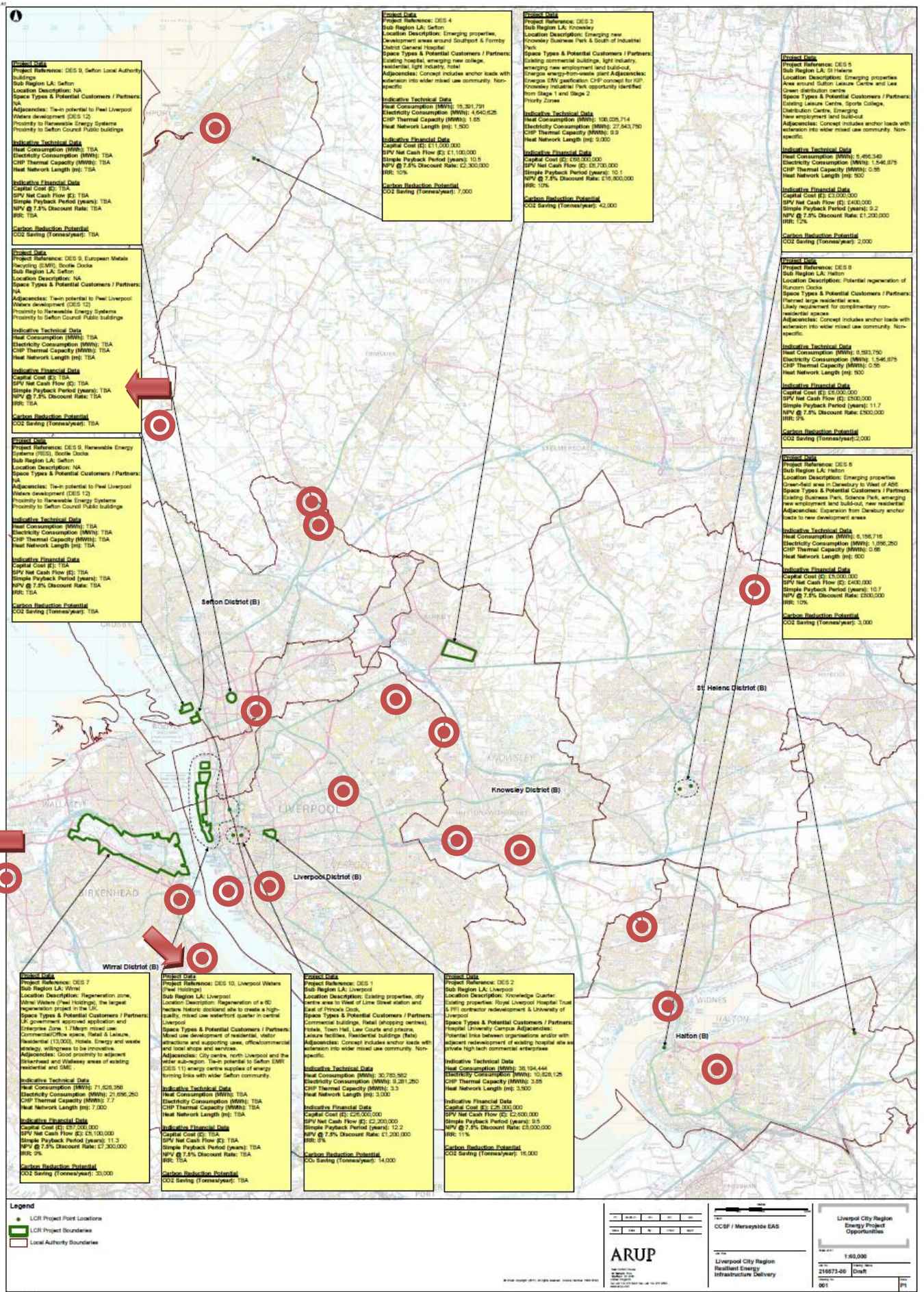
The high level results would indicate there is no geographic overlap between the LCR community groups supported and the energy infrastructure projects identified. However, the following caveats should be noted:

- ARUP used GIS mapping for locating the energy infrastructure projects as part of the project deliverables.
- The Energy Saving Trust did not use GIS mapping as this report and activity is not a project deliverable as such the locations should be treated cautiously and are subject to error.
- The Energy Saving Trust located the community groups on the website based on information available on the web or from a one to one session with the community group. Where possible a hyperlink to the community groups own website has been included which can be viewed by hovering over the red markers.

5 Recommendations

The following 3 recommendations are based on the engagement with community groups within the LCR, an understanding of LCR aspirations, Energy Saving Trust national community expertise and involvement in other LCR CCSF and pan-regional CCSF programmes:

1. **GIS map the locations of the 21 LCR community groups supported onto the same map as the LCR 12 energy infrastructure projects** – to enable more accurate analysis of opportunities for joint working.
2. **View communities as users and planning application influencers for energy infrastructure projects** – when mapping community groups think of the radius from the project in terms of energy use (as a resident, employee, tourist, patient etc) and as a potential supporter or opposer of pipeline or future energy infrastructure planning applications.
3. **Use ‘live’ map as promotional, incentivisation and training tool for planners, potential investors and interested community groups** - as more and more community groups and projects are developed tracking will become more difficult for Local Authorities especially with limited resources.



ARUP

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 Resilient Energy
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