



## **COALESCCE**

### **Regional Action Plan (RAP)**

**Oldham Council (PP1)**

**Lead partner**



**Peer Review visit in Germany (October 2018)**



**COALESCCE Action plan – Greater Manchester Combined Authority**

**Part I – General information**

Project: COALESCCE

Partner organisation: Oldham Council

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant): Greater Manchester COALESCCE stakeholder group

Country: UK

NUTS2 region: Greater Manchester

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Date of commencement of delivery phase (Phase 2): 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019

**Part II – Policy context**

The Action Plan aims to impact:

X	Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
€	European Territorial Cooperation programme
	Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:  
 GM European Structural Investment Fund, EU Investment Plan 2014 – 2020 Low Carbon stream, as set out in the 5-Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester 2019 – 2024

The inclusion of the Greater Manchester COALESCCE Action (below) in the 5 Year Environment Plan for Greater Manchester 2019 – 2024 will have the effect of bringing forward suitable projects for ESIF funding.

The inclusion of the action in the plan will also raise awareness of, and support for, Community Energy in the GMCA Managing Authority.



### Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

#### 1. Strategic context of community energy in Greater Manchester and background to COALESCCE

Greater Manchester's strategic ambition around climate change first began to take shape in 2011, when the city region adopted a new Climate Change Strategy. This strategy took four headline objectives from the city regional economic development strategy which was named simply the Greater Manchester Strategy:-

- We will make a rapid transition to a low carbon economy
- Our collective carbon emissions will have been reduced by 48% on 1990 levels
- We will be prepared for and actively adapting to a rapidly changing climate
- 'Carbon literacy' will have become embedded into the culture of our organisations, lifestyles and behaviours

Community energy was not mentioned in this strategy. This was the reason for the COALESCCE project – to change the delivery plan for the GMESIF at a strategic level to include community energy.

The first two semesters of COALESCCE were spent researching the community energy sector in Greater Manchester. Interviews were conducted with community energy organisations, equipment suppliers and installers, consultants, universities, colleges and local authorities, and this research resulted in the COALESCCE stakeholder group being formed.

With the creation of a new Mayor for Greater Manchester role in 2015, and the election of Andy Burnham to the office in May 2017, the city region began a new focus on tackling climate change. The GM Combined Authority commissioned work from the University of Manchester Tyndall Centre to look at carbon emissions in GM in the context of the Paris Accord, and worked to come up with a new stretching carbon emissions reduction target and delivery plan.

GM Mayor held a "Green Summit" in March 2018, and a wide range of groups representing different parts of the low carbon and environmental sector across GM were invited to submit evidence to the summit via a number of "Listening Events".

The COALESCCE project took advantage of this opportunity, and our first local stakeholder workshop was also set up to be the community energy sector "Listening Event" for the GM summit, working in partnership with the University of Manchester Tyndall Centre. Over 70 local stakeholders attended the COALESCCE workshop and the outputs from that event were duly fed into the 2018 Green Summit for consideration.

The output from the 2018 Green Summit was a 12-month "Springboard Report", which set out a new Environmental Vision for GM. As a result of input from COALESCCE, the new Vision explicitly references the community energy sector. The Environmental Vision for GM is as follows:-

*A long-term vision for our environment:*

*We want Greater Manchester to be a clean, carbon neutral, climate resilient city-region with a thriving natural environment and circular, zero-waste economy where:*



- *Our infrastructure will be smart and fit for the future: we will have an integrated, clean and affordable public transport system, resource efficient buildings, greater local community renewable energy, cleaner air, water and greenspace for all.*
- *All citizens will have access to green space in every community, more trees including in urban areas, active travel networks, environmental education and healthy and locally-produced food.*
- *Citizens and businesses will adopt sustainable living and businesses practices, focusing on local solutions to deliver a prosperous economy.*

As can be seen from the Vision above, the first bullet point specifically references “greater local community renewable energy”. This is a direct result of the input into the 2018 Green Summit which came from the first COALESCCE stakeholder workshop.

The Greater Manchester COALESCCE Peer Review was held in December 2018, and the Questionnaire for the Peer Review contained information gathered in Semesters 1 and 2 of COALESCCE in GM, when Oldham Council carried out a research exercise to establish the current size and potential of the community energy sector in GM. This research also helped to inform the second local stakeholder workshop which took place on 1 March 2019 and which is discussed later in this document.

Recommendations from the Peer Review which were discussed at the second stakeholder workshop include:-

- Cover the initial risk of community energy project development through establishment of a fund supporting feasibility studies (See Step 3 in the Action Plan section)
- Identify potential to include community energy in the “One Public Estate” programme which takes a strategic view of the property portfolio of a range of different public sector organisations (See Step 5 in the Action Plan referencing Power Paired and the Go Neutral scheme)
- Friendly competition at regional level between local authorities in GM for recognition in a league table (See Step 5 in the Action Plan referencing GMCA LA Environment Officers’ Group)
- Include social investors as an extra layer of investment (See Step 3 in the Action Plan, two Social Investors - from Leapfrog Finance and Thrive Renewables - participated in and presented at the Community Energy Action Planning Workshop on 1 March 2019; Resonance have announced a £20m investment into Community Led Housing in partnership with GMCVO who are ensuring a link into community energy opportunities. Meetings are scheduled in Semester 5 of COALESCCE with Triodos Corporate Bank and Thrive Renewables, led by a community energy organisation, and will include inviting these social investors to join the Finance event in June and to explore a start-up fund for GM.
- Community energy co-ops to emphasise the wider benefits – health, social, environmental impact and CO2 reduction, not only the economic part of it (See Step 2 in the Action Plan setting up a Community Energy Hub which will lead on communications and stakeholder events; including setting up a GM or Northwest Hub area on the Community Energy England website)
- Target communications based on the different stakeholders (See Step 2 in the Action Plan, Community Energy Hub and developing Steps 2,3,4 aimed at communicating with and engaging different key stakeholder groups).
- Make sure that community energy theme is included in the 2019 Green Summit event (see below, this was achieved).

On 1 March 2019, the COALESCCE project hosted a **Community Energy Action Planning Workshop for Greater Manchester** with over 60 stakeholder participants including representatives from 6 local authorities, community energy organisations, social financiers, private sector developers, GMCA, ENW, installers and technology companies, and community & voluntary sector groups. This was the second COALESCCE local stakeholder workshop.

The output of the event was twofold: the draft COALESCCE action plan and a wider action plan for the GM community energy sector, which includes the COALESCCE action plan with additional actions for a wider range of stakeholders which will support the community energy sector in GM more generally.



A representative of the Managing Agency, Mark Atherton (Assistant Greater Manchester Environment Director, delegated by Alison Gordon of the GMCA) attended the second COALESCOE stakeholder workshop, and provided the conduit for setting the COALESCOE action plan into the GM 5-year Environment Plan, which is the delivery plan for the GMESIF (the Policy Instrument).

GM set up a Greater Manchester Local Management Committee (GMLMC) in 2013 to oversee its obligations in relation to EU funds. The GMLMC was a key way in which partners (including Government) could be engaged in all the key decisions which GM makes in relation to EU funds. It was set up to be independent of, but reporting to, both the GM Local Enterprise Partnership (GMLEP) as managing agency, and the GM Combined Authority. The GMLMC has now become the Greater Manchester local ESIF Committee and is a formal part of the national governance of the ESIF programmes as a sub-committee of the National Growth Programme Board (GPB).

The day to day management of the ESIF programme is undertaken by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, they produce all reports and recommendations to the GMLEP. Colleagues in the GMCA met with representatives of the COALESCOE project to discuss our RAP proposals prior to the first draft.

After negotiations with GMCA, it was agreed that the COALESCOE Action Plan would be reflected in the new GM 5-year Environment Plan, which was launched at the 2019 Green Summit on 25<sup>th</sup> March, which will constitute the delivery plan for the Low Carbon stream of the GM European Structural Investment Fund, EU Investment Plan 2014 – 2020. In this way, the COALESCOE Action Plan will formally influence the GM ESIF which is the Policy Instrument for Oldham and Greater Manchester in the COALESCOE project. The GMCA were happy to support our suggestions that the inclusion of community energy as a delivery method of carbon reduction in the 5 yr environment plan represented a policy change and as such would issue the letter of support that will be signed by the Chair of the GMLEP

A leaflet containing a summary of the COALESCOE Action Plan was produced and distributed at the **Greater Manchester Green Summit 2019**, where the GM 5-year Environmental Action Plan was formally launched and the Leader of Oldham Council spoke about the COALESCOE project in a presentation to the 1700 attendees.

The actions in the wider GM Community Energy Action Plan will support the COALESCOE action plan in terms of Phase 2 delivery and monitoring.

Good Practices from the other COALESCOE partners which have inspired the Greater Manchester Action Plan:-

1. **Energy Atlas** to support identification of energy potential, open source, Baden Wuerttemberg region - <https://www.energieatlas-bw.de/sonne/dachflächen>

The Baden-Württemberg Energy Atlas is the joint Internet portal of the Ministry of the Environment and the LUBW (State institute for environmental measurement) for data and maps on renewable energies. It provides citizens, municipalities, administration, research and industry with important information on the state of decentralised energy production and regional energy demand. With its nationwide overview, the Energy Atlas offers energy consultants, planners and interested actors background information and handouts. The aim is to use networked information to stimulate possibilities for the efficient use of energy in order to save energy on a long-term and sustainable basis. In the extended data and map offer of the Energy Atlas, additional information and evaluation options are also available. The open source GIS-based tool also illustrates realized good-practices. The energy atlas also documents the number of realized renewable energy project and gives an actual overview of the current key figures and the day feed-in power.

Effect:

- Raising awareness for all renewable energy sources
- Showing still available potentials for renewable energies and efficiency effects
- Networking effects



- Lower barriers for non-professional stakeholders (community energy organisations) to find new project areas and partners
  - Further links and information to find professional support
  - "You are not alone" effect

The Energy Atlas has inspired the Action for Greater Manchester: **By June 2019, GMCA and LAs will have completed a full assessment of the potential of their assets for renewable energy. By the end of 2021, GMCA and LAs will have developed these assets (where financially viable) either themselves or in partnership with local communities.** It is hoped that a map of assets and CE opportunities will be developed via Power Paired which will launch this summer (see Step 4 below).

## 2. Solar – Bundesliga, Germany

The Solar-Bundesliga is a ranking system of the most successful solar energy communities in Germany. The benchmark for both solar heat and solar power is per capita output. A solar thermal system with a size of 1 square meter corresponds to an output of 700 watts. The league is organized by the editors of the journals Energiekommune and Solarthemen.

The target group of Solar-Bundesliga?

Anyone can report who can prove the data credibly. The "Solar-Bundesliga" is intended as an incentive for the local actors to determine reliable total numbers - for example, by counting on the rooftops or surveys with installers. The latest data are also available if you use the PV system register of the Federal Network Agency and you can evaluate the application numbers of the market incentive program for solar heat.

What is to be considered in the solar league report?

Only guaranteed minimum numbers are included in the rating - no estimates or uncertain projections.

How is the Solarbundesliga assessed?

For solar power and solar heat, there is one point per watt per inhabitant. In addition, there are bonus points that reward a balanced development of the two areas. The exact rules are explained on the FAQ page.

The Solarbundesliga has inspired the idea of each of the ten Greater Manchester Local Authorities taking part in a 'community energy league' competition, to see which of the borough areas can install the highest capacity of community-owned renewable energy. Oldham Council, as the lead of the Monitoring Group, will collect information every semester from all of the ten GM local authority areas, and compile it into a 'league table' for circulation to Chief Executives and Lead Members, along with the GMCA Low Carbon Hub and GM Mayor.

3. **Bratsigovo** municipality in Bulgaria, and **Hajdúszoboszló and Nagyhegyes** municipalities in Hungary, have installed their own renewable energy projects. This has inspired the Greater Manchester action in terms of local authorities taking responsibility for mapping out the potential of their own resources.
4. From **Konstanz peer review**, we saw evidence that the 'professionalisation' of the community energy sector, with scaling up of co-operative business models, can make community energy more sustainable. This has inspired the idea that using a mapping tool such as Power Paired, and getting the ten local authorities to map their assets, could achieve economies of scale such as community owned solar farms.
5. In Valencia, we heard about a co-operative model for transport, **ALTERNACoop**. This has inspired the individual action step of setting up a meeting to explore community owned electric vehicles.



6. From the **Radolfzell Study Visit** (LCF), we saw the ecological excellence of the **Mooshof Solar Park**, where wildflower planting had taken place underneath and around the solar farm and 20% of it was made available for the local community to own a share in.

## 2. Action

**This Action Plan contains one Action, which is set out as follows:-**

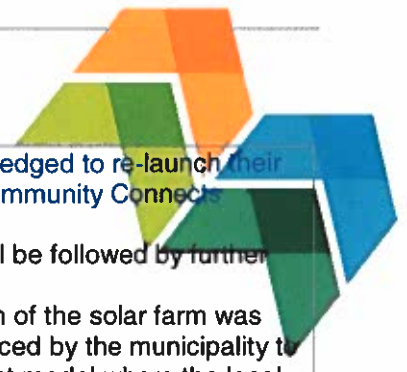
**By June 2019, GMCA and LAs will have completed a full assessment of the potential of their assets for renewable energy. By the end of 2021, GMCA and LAs will have developed these assets (where financially viable) either themselves or in partnership with local communities.**

This action also appears in the Greater Manchester 5-year Environment Plan, which is the delivery plan for the GMESIF, the Policy Instrument that COALESCCE aimed to change. In this way, the objective of the project has already been achieved.

The action is designed to change the strategic focus of the Policy Instrument in such a way as to generate an investable pipeline of community energy projects, through the mapping of opportunities and supporting the ten GM local authorities, community energy groups and other stakeholders to put together successful community energy projects.

Delivery of this Action can only be achieved by the implementation of a series of discreet steps, these are outlined below

1. Form the Phase 2 **Community Energy Monitoring Group** to liaise with and support stakeholders in delivery of the COALESCCE Action Plan. Oldham Council will put together this group with key local stakeholders (see Phase 2 monitoring section below). This will ensure that the Policy Instrument is influenced by the Action Plan.  
Implementation / timeline: Semester 6  
Origin from Phase 1: Requirement of the project  
Players involved: GMCA (as managing agency) Oldham Council, Community Energy England, Electricity North West, Quantum Strategy & Technology  
Estimated budget / funding source: staff time only - COALESCCE project, Oldham Council and voluntary time from the other players
2. Form a **Community Energy Hub**. Oldham Council will lead on the establishment of a GM hub, to lead on the delivery of the COALESCCE Action Plan and ensure that a pipeline of investable community energy projects is created to reflect the changed strategic focus of the Policy Instrument. NB The first meeting of this group took place on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2019. Helen Seagrave, Community Energy Manager at ENWL has drafted up the website spec for the NW section of the CE Hub to go on the Community Energy England website – CEE are currently talking to their web designers. A Loomio online discussion group has been set up. Once this has progressed, GMCA will be approached and asked for support. The new Hub co-ordinator role will probably be housed at Carbon Coop.  
Implementation / timeline: By June 2019 and ongoing  
Origin from Phase 1: 'professionalisation' of the community energy sector from Konstanz peer review; Community Energy England from UK, implemented on a local level in Greater Manchester  
Players involved: Oldham Council, Community Energy England, Electricity Northwest (ENWL), Power Paired (Forum for the Future, see Section 3 below), Tyndall Centre for Climate Change (University of Manchester), Finance organisations (eg Resonance/Leapfrog), Community Energy groups, GMCA (Energy Plan/Energy Innovation Co.), GMCVO (linking to Community-led Housing), NW Local Energy Hub, Co-ops UK and others  
Estimated budget / funding source: 2 years £50k per year (salary & on-costs), £21k per year other costs e.g. accommodation - The CE Hub is putting in a funding bid to Tudor Trust for a staff member; and to the Hive for governance support. COALESCCE supported the event with £1,500
3. Hold a meeting of **finance** and other stakeholders to tackle accessing funds for pre-consent risk finance, investment readiness, development, construction and operations investment. Oldham Council will support Quantum to co-ordinate this group, and the event will be funded by Electricity North West. This group will look at how community energy groups could access the ESIF, as well as



match funding from other sources. At the meeting, Electricity North West pledged to re-launch their Powering Communities funding, and continue to support the sector with Community Connects events. Quantum pledged to produce a resource sheet of support.

Implementation / timeline: This workshop was held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and will be followed by further "Community Connects" events yet to be scoped

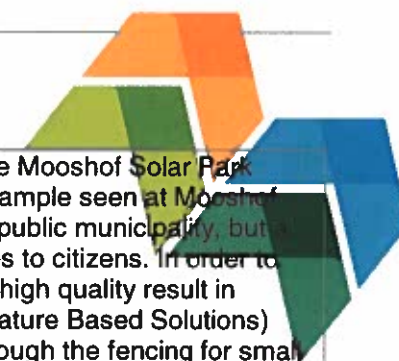
Origin from Phase 1: Mooshof solar park from Radolfzell visit – a proportion of the solar farm was made available for community shares, but the project as a whole was financed by the municipality to remove risk for community investors; Oldham Community Power investment model where the local authority gave a loan to enable deployment before the issue of community shares

Players involved: Quantum Strategy & Technology, Electricity North West, Energy 4 All (funding organisation), Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Local Energy North West Hub (BEIS central government funded technical support organisation)

Estimated budget / funding source: Powering Communities funding from Electricity North West – approx. £70K

4. Hold a **Commercial Buildings Group** meeting. Oldham Council will organise this meeting and by September, Oldham will also support the Power Paired launch to locate and support project partners for renewable energy generation sites across the city region. Private sector stakeholders will be engaged for the Commercial Buildings Group to extend the range of assets registered on Power Paired. This will enable sites to be identified for community energy projects which could benefit from the ESIF (the Policy Instrument). This event was successful with 24 people attending, including key stakeholder landlords. This event will not lead to a regular working group, but will be delivered through the Power Paired initiative (see Section 3).  
Implementation / timeline: This event was held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019  
Origin from Phase 1: "Power Paired" example from UK (see Section 3); Oldham Community Power model (council building roof space rented to community energy organisation), Bratisgovo renewable energy installations on municipal buildings  
Players involved: Quantum Strategy & Technology, Local Energy North West Hub, Forum for the Future (Power Paired), James Cropper Plc (landlord), Bruntwood (landlord)  
Estimated budget / funding source: COALESCCE funded the event at a cost of £1,750
  
5. Oldham Council will maintain links with GMCA and the 10 local authorities through attendance at the GMCA **Environment Officers Liaison group** on policy and potential partnerships. This will provide a means to monitor progress by the local authorities of the main action above on mapping assets and engaging with community energy groups. Oldham Council also represents COALESCCE on the GM Low Carbon Hub Energy Group. These activities will raise awareness amongst the 10 local authorities and wider public and private sector that the ESIF could be used to support community energy projects.  
Implementation / timeline: Ongoing through Phase 2  
Origin from Phase 1: Related to the Monitoring Group activities but more proactive, continuing dissemination of COALESCCE at a strategic level and continuing to expand the range of stakeholders  
Players involved: Oldham Council, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, wider GM strategic partnership  
Estimated budget / funding source: Officer time only, funded by Oldham Council
  
6. Schedule a workshop on community led and owned **Electric Vehicle charging** with Charge My Street, a community business model for on-street EV charging. Oldham Council will work with Quantum, Electricity North West and other stakeholders to explore the potential for community owned EV infrastructure, which could potentially be funded by the ESIF.  
Implementation / timeline: By Semester 8  
Origin from Phase 1: ALTERNACoop from Valencia, sustainable transport co-operative  
Players involved: Oldham Council, Quantum Strategy & Technology, Electricity North West, community energy groups, Greater Manchester Combined Authority  
Estimated budget / funding source: Officer time, Oldham Council will provide, and volunteer time from Quantum and other stakeholders





7. **Deliver the Pilot Action:** Hollinwood Community Solar Farm, inspired by the Mooshof Solar Park (Radolfzell Study Visit). The Pilot Action is to transfer the good practice example seen at Mooshof Solar Park in Germany, where a solar PV array had been developed by a public municipality, but a proportion of the ownership had been made available as community shares to citizens. In order to make the facility more attractive to community investors, and to achieve a high quality result in terms of environmental performance, a number of ecological measures (Nature Based Solutions) had been included in the facility such as wildflower planting and routes through the fencing for small animals to come and go.

Implementation / timeline: delivered by 2021. Semester 1 – Council sign-off and budget allocation for feasibility, briefing sessions with elected councillors, commission technical feasibility; Semester 2 – potential customer scoping, complete resident consultation, finalise capital budgets, prepare & submit planning application; Semester 3 – solar farm build, community share offer to residents  
Origin from Phase 1: Mooshof Solar Park good practice example from Radolfzell study visit  
Players involved: Oldham Council, Electricity North West, Oldham Community Power, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Local Energy North West Hub, Energy Systems Catapult

Estimated budget / funding source: around £1 million in total from ESIF, Oldham Council and Oldham citizens via a community share offer. A combined Greater Manchester project proposal (that included 5 of the GM municipalities) has submitted a Phase 1 Expression of Interest to a recent call for proposals from the GMESIF, which has been approved, and a full application will be submitted at Stage 2 in November. This Pilot Action has been included in this Greater Manchester project proposal.

However we are working on the financial feasibility of the project in isolation to assess the viability if we do not receive ERDF grant. If this proves the viability it is envisaged that Oldham Council and Oldham Community Power will finance the development through a series of community share options.

Pilot Action funding was sought from the Interreg JTS but was not approved. Nonetheless, we still aim to deliver this project as a Pilot Action for the COALESCCE project and will seek alternative funding for the Nature Based Solutions aspect of the design.

### 3. Players involved

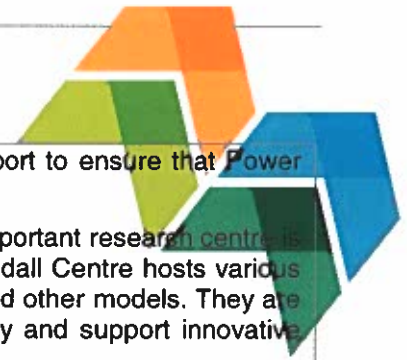
**Oldham Council:** leading CE Monitoring Group and main link to GMCA and 10 local authorities; provision of some resource for events to kick off working groups before June 2019; main voice for CE within GMCA as Andy Hunt leads on CE and Councillors are extremely supportive of the agenda.

**Community Energy England:** Jon Hall as the main contact person for CEE liaison with GM. Providing website space for the NW Community Energy Hub, and providing policy and wider guidance, good practice from other regions, promoting activities and ideas, sharing research and publicity. Possible knowledge of funding sources to support ongoing delivery.

**Electricity Northwest Ltd (ENWL):** Community Energy Manager, Helen Seagrave as main contact for Community Energy and Local Energy schemes, and for Carbon Reduction projects. ENWL Community Connects events is aimed at volunteers and employees in the community and local energy sector, and is delivered by a partnership of organisations each bringing expertise from working in the sector within their specialist areas. The Finance meeting in the action plan steps will be supported by ENWL as part of the Community Connects programme in June. ENWL's Powering Communities provides funding of £71,000 (in the first year) to support projects that put community and local energy at the heart of their communities and in particular can demonstrate how they can contribute to the delivery of one of the following priorities:

- Engaging communities in energy issues, particularly energy efficiency
- Supporting vulnerable customers and / or reducing fuel poverty in our communities
- Investigating or delivering new ways of working, fit for a smart, flexible low carbon grid

**Forum for the Future:** Is a national sustainability NGO. It has developed the Power Paired project which is an online portal akin to an online dating service which aims to match assets for potential energy generation sites with interested community energy organisations. Power Paired project manager Rebecca Lawson presented at the 2019 Green Summit to raise awareness of Community Energy and the upcoming launch of Power Paired this summer. Forum for the Future is actively encouraging businesses to input their assets onto



the website. The organisation is currently devising how to provide additional support to ensure that Power Paired is marketed and used.

**Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, University of Manchester:** this nationally important research centre is led by a big advocate for community energy, Professor Carly McLachlan. The Tyndall Centre hosts various students and researchers carrying out research into community energy financial and other models. They are well placed to boost the profile, document the wide impacts of community energy and support innovative models and technologies.

**GMCVO: Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations;** Ian Taylor, Director of Development is working with social investor Resonance on a £20m investment fund for Community Led Housing including renewable energy. Ian has offered to ensure that GM's Community Energy organisations are integrated into the process of development, with a view to accessing support and leveraging in greater opportunities afforded by providing energy systems to new housing developments.

**North West Local Energy Hub:** James Johnston and Sarah Holland of the hub contributed to the GM CE Action Planning workshop and will continue to monitor and support community energy opportunities of significant scale or innovation and provide modelling and other support.

**Co-ops UK:** provides ongoing support to Community Benefit Societies and Co-operatives who are its members; it also runs the Community Shares Unit which supports organisations developing community share offers and it administers the Community Shares Standard Mark; it also runs The Hive, which provides tailored and general support to Co-ops.

**Greater Manchester and North West Community Energy Organisations:** all of these groups provide each other mutual support through the NWCEN google group; at meetings and events and via Community Energy England. These groups, while mainly voluntary, will continue to deliver projects, support training and events and work via the Hub and working groups on Finance and Commercial Buildings to deliver the projects.

#### 4. Timeframe

By June 2019, GMCA and LAs will have completed a full assessment of the potential of their assets for renewable energy.

By the end of 2021, GMCA and LAs will have developed these assets (where financially viable) either themselves or in partnership with local communities.

By the end of June 2019, three delivery working groups will have been set up: the Commercial Buildings Group, the Finance Group and the Community Energy Hub group.

By March 2020, a meeting will have been held looking at the potential for community owned electric vehicles.

The GM CE Action Plan (an extension of the COALESCCE Action Plan) will be developed in greater detail out of the Community Energy Hub and the Finance and Commercial buildings groups.

Power Paired will launch by September 2019.

#### 5. Costs

The costs of meeting and facilitating the first meetings of the Community Energy Monitoring Group, Hub, Finance, Commercial Buildings and EV Charging Workshop are likely to comprise some external support for administration time, facilitation and note taking, and possibly venue costs, although free venues and hosting will be sought.

ENWL has offered to fund and host the Finance event in June.

Graham Smith, Director of Oldham Community Power has kindly offered to sponsor an event.

Go Neutral (the Greater Manchester Combined Authority initiative to support local authorities auditing their assets for suitability for renewable energy projects) is being provided by Arup (a consultancy company) at a cost to the Local Authorities.



Andy Hunt and Dave Catherall at Oldham Council are employees.

A key element of the finance group is to address how to provide at risk pre-development funds.

## 6. Funding sources

Sponsorship by ENWL, Graham Smith of OCP, already offered.  
COALESCCE Phase 1 funding for the first meetings of the Hub and Buildings groups (by end June 2019)  
COALESCCE Phase 2 for monitoring group.  
Other sponsorship or finance will be sought by various stakeholders.

## 7. Risks

### 1. Local Authorities do not act on information from Go Neutral

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: High

Mitigation: GM Low Carbon Hub team will chase LAs

### 2. LAs do not want to work with CE organisations

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: High

Mitigation: Monitoring team will try to engender a 'friendly competition' ethos amongst the Local Authorities via a 'league table' to encourage them to join in with community energy initiatives, as well as providing advice and signposting for interested LAs

### 3. Finance group meets but cannot come up with a plan to locate pre-consent risk finance

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: Medium

Mitigation: This in itself will not necessary stop community energy projects. Other methods are available e.g. Pioneer shareholding (at risk investment) by LAs and other public sector organisations

### 4. GMCA Environment Fund will not support CE due to focus on natural environment

Probability level: High

Impact level: Low

Mitigation: Other finance options are available

### 5. Power Paired does not secure a sufficient number of private sector partners with appropriate assets

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: Low

Mitigation: Public and community sectors should be able to provide a sufficient volume of sites to make Power Paired a success

### 6. Post FITs (end March 2019) financial models are not viable or only work for very large system sizes

Probability level: Medium

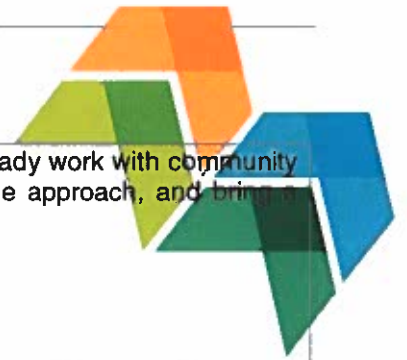
Impact level: Medium

Mitigation: Some GM community energy groups are already developing business plans for the post-FIT environment, which appear to show viability. As time goes on, the capital costs of projects will fall

### 7. CE groups spend a lot of time on early project development but legal teams or high board level in asset owners are risk averse and do not sign off leases or PPAs.

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: High



Mitigation: A strong practitioner network including local authorities who already work with community energy groups can help to allay the fears of organisations considering the approach, and bring a degree of peer pressure

**8. CE volunteer fatigue**

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: High

Mitigation: Encouraging more and younger people into the sector will be essential to maintain energy and enthusiasm

**9. Financial modelling for Demand Side Management, Flexibility, Storage and local supply are too challenging for CE groups to develop**

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: Medium

Mitigation: Working with more experienced partners such as Electricity North West, who are willing to help community energy groups, will be invaluable in developing new complex models for new community energy approaches

**10. PPA prices are too low to raise community share capital or social capital**

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: High

Mitigation: New approaches such as electricity sleeving arrangements, and locating sites (using Power Paired) where most of the electricity is used on-site will be key to mitigating this risk

**11. Post-Brexit £GBP is weak and PV prices are too high (it is expected that prices will drop after the FITs cliff edge)**

Probability level: Medium

Impact level: Medium

Mitigation: Difficult to mitigate such a macroeconomic situation but other factors such as energy price rises could balance the other side of the community energy business model and make schemes viable

**8. Monitoring**

Oldham Council will co-ordinate the Phase 2 Monitoring Group, which will include a representative from the Managing Agency (probably Mark Atherton, Assistant GM Environment Director). Other stakeholders involved in this group will probably be Quantum Strategy & Technology (one of the key GM stakeholders and a consultancy company providing specialist support for the community energy sector), Electricity North West and Community Energy England.

The Monitoring Group will keep in touch with the GMCA and the ten Local Authorities, as well as local community energy groups and other stakeholders, and make sure that all parties have all the support and information they need to progress community energy projects.

The Monitoring Group will monitor progress on the six steps in the Action Plan, and will also monitor the key risks identified and put in place mitigating actions and strategies where needed. The Monitoring Group will also report progress to the Interreg Joint Secretariat.

The Monitoring Group will also maintain the 'community energy league table' (Solarbundesliga good practice example) every semester, and circulate the information to local authority officers, chief executives and Lead Members. There will be praise for the most successful local authority areas, but extra help and support for those areas which are not succeeding.

Date: 17. SEPT. 2019

Signature: 

Stamp of the organisation (if available): N.A.



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