

**BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL AND
KEYNSHAM COMMUNITY ENERGY COOPERATION AGREEMENT 2024-2029**

This Cooperation Agreement is made on the _____ 2024

BETWEEN: Bath and North East Somerset Council of the Guildhall, High Street, BA1 5AW, United Kingdom (“**B&NES**”);

AND: Keynsham Community Energy Limited (KCE) (Community Benefit Society Registration Number 7089 of 1 The Park, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2BL)

Collectively referred to as the “**Parties**” and each a “**Party**”.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. B&NES has a pivotal role in tackling climate change by reducing carbon emissions from its own estate and operations, encouraging and enabling its residents, businesses and visitors to reduce their carbon emissions and by achieving national priorities such as domestic energy efficiency and the deployment of renewable energy in a locally appropriate way.
- 1.2. Under Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 B&NES has the power to do anything which it considers is likely to achieve the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area. Under Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 B&NES also has a general power of competence to do anything which individuals may generally do.
- 1.3. KCE is a community enterprise set up in Keynsham by local people to develop community-based renewable energy and energy efficiency projects (Projects) within the Keynsham area wards: Keynsham North, Keynsham South, Keynsham East, Farmborough, Publow and Whitchurch, Saltford as per the Connecting Communities Keynsham area.
- 1.4. It is a Community Benefit Society, set up under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 and established for the benefit of the Community. Further details are contained in the Appendix to this Agreement.

2. Purpose

The key purpose of this Agreement is to set out how the Parties will cooperate in order to:

Build community resilience in B&NES by generating local energy for local people through community owned renewable energy projects and the delivery of low energy services. This will help alleviate the impact of rising fossil-fuelled energy prices, and retaining economic benefit locally

Enable B&NES to deliver its commitments below:

- a. In 2019 the council declared a Climate Emergency, with a commitment to provide leadership to enable carbon neutrality in the district by 2030. Tackling the Climate

Emergency means creating a different vision for all parts of B&NES. The Climate emergency strategy sets out Priority 3 to increase local renewable energy generation and states, ‘Local renewable energy generation needs to be developed rapidly and at scale to contribute to the decarbonisation of electricity, heat, and transport.

- b. The Climate Strategy sets a target for the council to generate 12MW of energy to meet its own energy demands and also gives an indicative target to facilitate the generation of 300MW of renewable electricity across the district.
- c. One Shared Vision for a *“Fair, Green, Connected and Creative Bath with North East Somerset”*
- d. The Sustainable Communities theme in the Economic Strategy
- e. The ‘Encourage the use of local suppliers’ principle in the Procurement and Commissioning Strategy reflects the importance to work with local suppliers.

2.1. Contribute renewable energy revenues into the KCE Community Fund to support low carbon projects within the Keynsham area

2.2. Support KCE to become a robust and successful Community Enterprise

3. Identification and Development of Energy Projects and Other Opportunities

3.1. The Parties agree to work together to identify

3.1.1 Projects within the Keynsham area.

3.1.3 Opportunities for people living and or working in the Keynsham area to invest and secure a return from Projects within the Keynsham area.

3.1.4 Further opportunities for joint working

3.2. B&NES will help KCE to identify Projects on publicly owned estates and the River Avon and will facilitate working with ESP partners such as the Environment Agency.

3.3. KCE will decide whether it wishes to take Projects forward and at its own cost prepare a budget and work plan, the contents of which will be submitted for consideration at a later date by the Parties. If the Parties decide to implement a Project that Project will be the subject of separate agreements by them.

3.4. The Parties will consider opportunities for working together to test the level of interest for Projects amongst different target groups, for example, schools and communities.

3.5. KCE will provide advice to B&NES on energy issues in the Keynsham area, at KCE’s discretion.

- 3.6. B&NES will continue to take a corporate approach to cooperating with KCE across all Directorates and Services. This may include the facilitation of Projects through B&NES' strategic partnerships and bodies. This Agreement may also facilitate the incorporation of KCE Projects into B&NES' capital projects.
- 3.7. This Agreement will not limit the scope of activities that could be considered and pursued in partnership to deliver B&NES long-term carbon reduction ambitions. Activities could include a broad range of energy services relating to energy efficiency and use, as well as energy generation.
- 3.8. Projects to be undertaken by KCE will be subject to the same planning and development management regime as all other planning applications and will not be given preferential treatment as a result of this Agreement.

4. Procurement and Exclusivity

- 4.1. The Parties agree that they will be open and transparent on the procurement of services and goods for individual Projects.
- 4.2. The Parties will work together to identify any mechanisms under which KCE may become a preferred partner with B&NES for related services and goods in the Keynsham area as opportunities arise and will, where feasible and appropriate, support the development of related local supply chains and support local businesses by using labour and materials from within the District.
- 4.3. Both Parties reserve the right to work independently or with other organisations or partners on Projects within the Keynsham area, including through Cooperation Agreements between B&NES and other community energy enterprises

5. Investment

- 5.1. The Parties may work together to investigate the potential for other funding mechanisms, to be determined.
- 5.2. B&NES may consider investment in KCE Projects, including appropriate policy loan investments on terms that are State Aid compliant.

6. Governance and accountability

- 6.1. A Steering Group will be established comprising two (2) representatives from B&NES and two (2) from KCE with ad hoc attendance at Steering Group meetings as required.
- 6.2. The Steering Group will meet at least once annually to review progress on achieving the aims of this Agreement and work diligently to overcome barriers.

- 6.3. Each Party will appoint a representative to oversee the administration and day-to-day running of the matters falling within the scope of this Agreement and bring any issues that arise to the attention of the Steering Group. Meetings of the Steering Group will be convened by the B&NES representative.
- 6.4. An annual report specific to this Cooperation Agreement will be jointly produced by the Parties by the end of August in each year. The report will set out the achievements of the Parties as well as any areas of concern and any proposal to update or amend this Agreement. This report will include an audited financial statement from KCE to show how revenue has been allocated between the priorities listed in 6.6. a-d.
- 6.5. The Agreement is entered into on the understanding that KCE will re-invest revenues it generates from Projects into the KCE Community Fund to support further local projects that contribute to carbon reduction in the area. The intention of the Parties is that Community Fund revenues accrued from Projects within the Keynsham area will be reinvested only within the Keynsham area. Investment into the Community Fund, in terms of amount and regularity, will be dependent on the availability of revenues once other higher priority commitments have first been satisfied by KCE, and will be subject to review by the Steering Group. The priority of revenue allocation will be as follows:
- a. Loan repayment
 - b. Payment of interest to KCE members
 - c. Funding of continuation and development of KCE
 - d. Payment into KCE Community Fund

7. Publicity, Communications and Community Engagement

- 7.1. The Parties will publicise the cooperation outlined in this Agreement and the wider importance, principles and benefits of individual projects, in such a manner as agreed in writing by them.
- 7.2. All publicity material relating to this Agreement or any of the joint work referred to within it will be agreed in writing by both Parties.
- 7.3. The Parties will work together to maximise community involvement and community benefits from renewable energy. The Parties will share plans for community engagement around renewable energy in the Keynsham area at an early stage to ensure that the relevant stakeholders are informed and to enable a coordinated approach if desirable.

8. Term and Variation of this Agreement

- 8.1. This Agreement will remain in force for a period of 5 years from the date on which it is signed by both Parties. The Parties may agree in writing to extend

the term of this Agreement on an annual basis for up to a maximum of two additional years.

8.2. The Parties may vary this Agreement at any time upon their joint written agreement.

9. Costs

9.1. Any costs incurred in respect of this Agreement will be for the account of the Party incurring those costs.

10. Freedom of Information

10.1. KCE acknowledges that B&NES is subject to the requirements of the Freedom Of Information Act and the Environmental Information Regulations and will assist and cooperate with B&NES (at KCE's expense) to enable B&NES to comply with these Information disclosure requirements.

11. Status of Agreement

11.1. This Agreement is a statement of intent and does not create legal obligations between the Parties.

Signed

On behalf of B&NES:

Signature _____

Name _____

Position _____

On behalf of KCE:

Signature _____

Name _____

Position _____

APPENDIX 1: BACKGROUND TO KEYNSHAM COMMUNITY ENERGY

Keynsham Community Energy is a community enterprise set up by local people to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in the Keynsham area. It is a Community Benefit Society established for the benefit of the community and is registered with the FCA.

Its founder members bring a range of knowledge and experience in renewable energy, energy efficiency, business, engineering and the sciences.

Prior to its founding in 2015 the members of KCE have worked together in the community to provide energy advice to various community groups, which have implemented more energy efficient building developments. Its members have also worked to campaign for businesses in Keynsham to reduce their energy 'waste' and to bring the community together to promote renewable energy generation.

KCEs vision for Keynsham is local green energy: investing in, owning, generating and saving energy for all our benefit.