

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive Forward Plan Reference	E3560
---	--------------

Renewal of Keynsham Community Energy Cooperation Agreement

Decision maker/s	CLlr Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel
The Issue	Renewal of Keynsham Community Energy Cooperation Agreement
Decision Date	24 March 2025
The decision	The Cabinet Member agrees that the Council enters into a renewed Cooperation Agreement with KCE for five years, from 2025 to 2030.
Rationale for decision	The KCE Cooperation Agreement renewal is part of the Council's strategic response to climate change. It will facilitate the Council's commitment in the Climate Emergency Strategy to provide the leadership to reduce carbon emissions across BANES to net zero by 2030, and to meet the Council's target to facilitate 100MW of renewable energy in BANES by 2027.
Financial and budget implications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Cooperation Agreement contains no financial or property obligations, stating only that the Council and KCE may work together to investigate the potential for funding mechanisms or projects on Council property, subject to a separate decision-making process in each case. 2. The Cooperation Agreement will require a limited amount of officer time from the Sustainable Economy service, resourced within existing budgets and staff capacity. Ad-hoc support will be required from the Council's property team where projects are considered on the Council's estate. 3. For individual projects the Council will need to determine whether activity can be resourced within its existing capacity or whether costs for Council officer resource will need to be built into project budgets.
Issues considered	Sustainability; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	Via email
Other options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Council has its own rooftop solar programme and has delivered many projects itself where the energy cost saving can be used to repay the upfront investment. However, where there

	<p>is an opportunity to support community ownership and partnership with local communities, the Council will consider this.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Working with commercial companies to deliver similar projects: In this case the profits from energy projects are not reinvested locally, creating less value for the area. The social benefits of local ownership of energy, community involvement in projects and the development of a local low carbon supply chain would not be as fully realised. 3. Working with organisations that are similar to KCE: We have not found any other local organisations who can provide the same benefits as KCE in the Keynsham area, of being non-profit, reinvesting revenues into a community fund and being owned by local people via community share offers. 4. The only organisation that could operate in the Keynsham area and provide similar benefits is BWCE itself. However, this would miss the opportunity for greater local engagement through KCE's connection to their area, and to create more capacity within the district in the form of another local energy enterprise. BWCE fully supports KCE and the principle of operating at the most local level and is providing support to KCE for their first project. 5. As with the original BWCE Agreement, the KCE Cooperation Agreement is not an exclusive agreement, and the Council can choose to pursue other options should it be in its interests to do so and would positively consider any other organisation's proposals that achieved the same aims.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a Member taking the decision:	None
Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	Cllr Sarah Warren, Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Travel
Date of Signature	24/03/2025

Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision