

24th November 2020

Motion submitted to Mendip District Council by Cllr Lucie Taylor Hood for Full Council 14 December 2020

Background (adapted from Power for People “The Local Electricity Bill, Detailed Briefing”):

The Committee on Climate Change states that the UK is way off track to meet its greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets. Transport and heating need to be electrified in order to decarbonise the economy, yet renewable energy generation currently accounts for only 11% of all UK energy use. Renewable generation must, therefore, be dramatically increased.

The huge potential of the community energy sector is being blocked because current energy market and licensing rules lead to local supply costs that are insurmountable. A report by the Institute for Public Policy Research states that the financial, technical and operational challenges involved in setting up a licensed energy supply company mean that initial costs exceed £1 million.

The costs and complexity of being a licensed electricity supplier need to be made proportionate to the size of the supply operation. It would then be financially viable for current and potential renewable generators to sell locally generated energy directly to local customers.

The Local Electricity Bill had its second reading in Parliament on 10th July 2020.

So far, 210 MPs have stated their support for the Bill in Parliament, along with 60 County and Local Authorities. Over 300 community groups also support the Bill along with a coalition of 58 national Organisations.

The Bill, if made law, would empower local communities to sell locally generated clean energy directly to local customers by establishing a statutory Right to Local Supply. This is currently impossible because of the huge setup and running costs involved in doing so.

Proposal:

Therefore, it is proposed that Full Council:

- a. acknowledges the ongoing efforts that this council has made to address the Climate & Ecological Emergency;
- b. supports the Local Electricity Bill which aims to enable electricity generators to become local electricity suppliers;
- c. recognises the role councils can play in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;
- d. resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a Right to Local Supply; and
- e. commits to:
 - informing local media and communities of this decision,
 - writing to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People, (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.

[ends]