

Motions

The following Motion has been submitted by Councillor Sarah Dyke:

The Local Electricity Bill – despite the corona virus pandemic the Bill is due to have its second reading in Parliament on 10th July 2020.

The Bill was introduced as a Ten Minute Rule Bill on 10th June by Pater Aldous MP and is formally supported by Liberal Democrat MPs Alistair Carmichael, Wendy Chamberlain, Daisy Cooper, Sir Edward Davey, Wera Hobhouse, Christine Jardine and Sarah Olney as well as 56 MPs from other parties. It is the same drafting as the Local Electricity Bill from the previous Parliamentary session supported by a cross-party group of 116 MPs.

19 principal councils have resolved to support the Bill so far: Adur & Worthing, Camden, Colchester, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles), Devon County, Hinckley & Bosworth, Kingston-upon-Thames, Luton, North Devon, North Hertfordshire, North Kesteven, North Norfolk, Solihull, South Hams, Southwark, Teignbridge, West Devon, West Lindsey and West Oxfordshire.

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.

The ultimate result of this would be:

1. Local communities and businesses could buy their electricity from a local energy company, instead of the big national utilities.
2. Building more local renewable energy schemes would be financially viable.
3. Local communities would gain economic benefits, such as more local skilled jobs and investment in energy efficiency schemes for local homes.

Proposal

Therefore, it is proposed that South Somerset District Council:

- (i) acknowledges the efforts that this council has made to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote renewable energy;
- (ii) recognises that councils can play a central role in creating sustainable communities, particularly through the provision of locally generated renewable electricity;
- (iii) further recognises
 - that very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so,



South Somerset District Council

- that making these financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation would create significant opportunities for councils to be providers of locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations, and
- that revenues received by councils that became local renewable electricity providers could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities

(iv) accordingly 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

(v) further resolves to

- inform the local media of this decision,
- write to local MPs, asking them to support the Bill, and
- write 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.