

Appendix 1 Report on Strategic Energy Partnership Activity in 2024/25

1. Background to Strategic Business Plan and Annual Business Plan 2024/25

- 1.1. The [Strategic Business Plan](#) sets out the high-level vision and strategic themes for the Strategic Energy Partnership (SEP) for the first five years (2024-2029).
- 1.2. The Annual Business Plan sets out the details of programme activities and financial information, to deliver under the strategic themes and vision as set out in the Strategic Business Plan, for the year 2024/25.
- 1.3. Both business plans were approved by the Shareholder Committee on 23 April 2024.
- 1.4. This report provides an update on SEP activity up to 31st March 2025.

2. Programme team and projects update

- 2.1. The SEP partnership is a UK first, with an ambitious approach to delivering projects that help the city transition to net zero and maximising the benefits for Coventry in terms of helping to lower bills, generate clean local energy and create new jobs and skills. The first 18 months of the partnership focussed on establishing ways of working and developing an initial phase of projects.
- 2.2. A key activity during the delivery of the 24/25 Annual Business Plan was the development of the Coventry Energy Plan, which was fully funded by E.ON. The plan provides a strategic long-term energy vision for the city, giving us a detailed understanding of the energy challenges and opportunities looking to the 15-year life of the partnership and beyond. The Coventry Energy Plan provided an evidence base for the preparation of the 2025/26 Annual Business Plan and will continue to be used to shape and prioritise the most impactful projects taken forward by the SEP in the years ahead.
- 2.3. During 24/25, the volume of partnership activity scaled up, with multiple projects completed, others in delivery, and more in development. Whilst progress has been very positive and positive outcomes including carbon savings and reduction in energy bills are being generated, the CJV Board recognise that more strategic and impactful opportunities need to be prioritised to ensure we are maximising the value of the partnership. The Board will continue to provide challenge to the programme team to explore more opportunities like this.
- 2.4. Projects in development and delivery in 2024/25 are listed below. Some projects were aborted for the reasons noted below. Some projects that were not pursued may still be viable future projects for the SEP, or others to deliver. Based on emerging opportunities, some additional projects were added after the 2024/25 Annual Business Plan was approved. These are noted below.

Table 1.0 - Impact of projects in 2024/25 by programme

Project	Description	Funding	Impact
Solar in Schools			
Solar in schools phase 1 In development	A pilot project to increase renewable energy production at schools without relying on grant funding. By developing a self-funding scheme to install solar panels and energy efficiency measures at school sites, available grant and capital funding can be deployed elsewhere, while reducing schools' energy bills.	Options for a range of funding models are being explored	Reduce energy costs for schools. Increase renewable energy supply and resilience to buildings. Additional work in schools includes careers talks/energy workshops. Use of local supply chain.
Schools Heating PSDS Due for completion in 2025	Complete replacement of heating systems at St Christophers and Ravensdale primary schools. End-of-life gas boilers replaced by air source heat pumps, and entire secondary system replacement (e.g. pipes and radiators) to maximise life of system. Works due to complete in Autumn term.	• £2.2m from One Strategic Plan and Education Capital Programme approved March 2025 • £0.9m Salix grant	Reduce energy costs for schools. Increase renewable energy supply and resilience to buildings. Additional work in schools includes careers talks/energy workshops.

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Project	Description	Funding	Impact
Solar Farms			
Lentons Lane solar farm In development	The SEP is developing an updated scheme for a significant ground mount solar farm at Lentons Lane. The updated scheme has been developed to respond to concerns raised at Planning Committee in 2024 when an initial consent was sought by the Council. The scheme is expected to be brought back to Planning in 2025, following a public consultation.	E.ON will fund the solar farm, subject to securing planning consent.	c.23MWp solar farm, which could generate zero carbon power for over 7,000 homes. Subject to a business case for off taking it will further increase the Council's share of renewable energy generation, improve energy resilience and lower our carbon footprint.
Council Building Decarbonisation			
Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme 3c In delivery (in March 2025 this scheme was approaching practical completion)	A pilot programme to deliver a combination of heat pumps, solar panels, and other energy-efficiency measures in four council-owned buildings (Moat House Leisure and Neighbourhood Centre, Foleshill Library, Coundon Family Centre, and The Families for All Hub at 454 Foleshill Road). Work has completed at all sites.	• £1.0m approved Feb 2024 • £0.8m Salix grant	Reduce energy costs in Council buildings to enable savings to support service delivery Increase renewable energy supply and resilience to buildings. Social value has included local talks and activities to influence communities to support environmental protection and improvement, and using a local supplier in Daventry.

Project	Description	Funding	Impact
MEES phase 1 In development	A pilot project to develop a proposition for Council-owned commercial buildings in Hillfields which are available for lease to the private sector. This aligns with the place-based approach the Council is taking as part of the Hillfields Neighbourhood Improvement project.	Initial costs of pilot funded by E.ON. (Business case to be developed for future funding)	Reduced energy costs for tenants. Insights into how to support the energy transition for smaller commercial properties, typically leased to small and medium-sized enterprises by private landlords.
Future PSDS applications	No further Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme applications were possible for SEP-related activities in 2024-25	-	-
Depot decarbonisation	This project did not commence as no funding sources were identified	-	-
MEES phase 2	This project did not commence as it was intended to build on the learning from MEES phase 1	-	-
Non-Council Building Decarbonisation			
Generic projects for commercial customers	No opportunities with commercial customers were commenced in 2024-25	-	-
Energy Security Across the City			
No projects were brought forward specially under this programme in 2024-25, however many of the projects in other programmes which support clean local power generation and improve energy efficiency support this, including solar generation projects and retrofit projects.			

Project	Description	Funding	Impact
Domestic Energy Efficiency			
Homes Upgrade Grant (HUG) 2 Project Completed	A government funded project aimed at improving the energy efficiency in homes that are: off the gas grid, low-income households and poorly insulated or energy inefficient. The project supported 51 homes within Coventry	Funded by Department of Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ)	More energy efficient homes for residents, improving indoor comfort (e.g. warmer in winter) and supporting bill reductions. Fuel poverty and carbon emission reductions.
Energy Company Obligation (ECO)4 In development	Energy efficiency scheme aimed at reducing fuel poverty, lowering carbon emissions and improving the energy efficiency of homes.	ECO places a legal obligation on medium and large energy suppliers to deliver energy-saving measures to low-income, fuel-poor, and vulnerable households	More energy efficient homes for residents, improving indoor comfort (e.g. warmer in winter) and supporting bill reductions. Fuel poverty and carbon emission reductions.
Affordability Pilot Completed	New project added since the 2024/25 ABP was approved. A pilot aimed at E.ON customers in the city most in need of support. Trial included battery storage and time of use tariff, as well as other energy efficiency measures such as insulation, solar panels and white good replacement. Some customers also received debt relief. This project won the Utility Week Flexibility Inclusion Award in May 2025.	Fully funded by E.ON	Of the 18 customers receiving the measures: • Typical electric users are expected to save c.£5,000 over 20 years. • Higher electric users are expected to save c.£7,500 over 20 years. • Two are expected to save over £400 annually on their energy bills.

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Project	Description	Funding	Impact
Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy			
LEVI (Pilot)	This opportunity has not been pursued by the SEP	-	-
LEVI (Main)	This opportunity was not realised in 2024/25	-	-
New Union Street Car Park EV Chargers Completed	New project added since the 2024/25 ABP was approved. A total of six electric vehicle chargers at New Union Street Car Park. Two of which are in accessible bays.	Fully funded by E.ON	Continued or increased access to EV chargers in more locations in the city including for drivers with disabilities. Support of transition to lower emissions vehicles. Local supplier (Rugby) of EV chargers.
Multi-Storey Car Park Upgrade Part completed	A total of 22 electric vehicle chargers at Salt Lane Car Park. Two of which are in accessible bays for Shop Mobility users. Completed. A total of 14 electric vehicle chargers at Coventry Station Car Park. Two of which are in accessible bays for Shop Mobility users. This project is due to complete in 2025/26.	Fully funded by E.ON	Continued or increased access to EV chargers in more locations in the city including for drivers with disabilities. Support of transition to lower emissions vehicles. Local supplier (Rugby) of EV chargers.

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Project	Description	Funding	Impact
Railway Station EV Chargers for Friargate 2 tenants Completed	Installation of 10 EV chargers at Coventry Station multi-storey car park for the use of tenants at Friargate 2.	Funding from existing Council budgets	Access to EV chargers in more locations in the city. Support of transition to lower emissions vehicles.
Workplace EV Improvement	This project was not pursued	-	-
Fleet Decarbonisation	This project was not pursued	-	-
Workplace EV pilot (generic)	This project was not pursued	-	-
Other Enabling Projects			
Alternative Energy Supply	Since October 2024, NPower Business Solutions (part of E.ON) has supplied Coventry City Council with power. This same contract also provides many schools in the city with their power.	Funding from existing Council budgets	Increased proportion of renewable energy supplied to the city. Provides additional tools to the Council to reduce exposure to volatile energy markets.
New connections pilot project	This project was not pursued	-	-
Clean Hub Strategy	This project was not pursued	-	-

3. Community Benefits update

Embedding social value in the SEP will ensure long term social benefit and sustainable impact for the city. The SEP enables delivery of social value far in excess of what could be achieved by individual projects outside of a long-term partnership arrangement. The community benefit initiatives progressed well during 2024-25. There are seven community benefit projects either in development, in delivery, or completed. These are in addition to the social value commitments associated with each technical project noted above. In total, the activities committed to in 2024-25 will deliver £1.4 million of social value.

Table 2.0: Impact of social value activity delivered through social value fund

Social Value Project	Description	Impact
Adult Employability Work Experience Programme – Care Leaver Work placement In delivery	SEP focussed on over 18's with a Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) background and those who had care experience in the city. The young adults received 2 weeks of unpaid work experience and took part in sessions that enhanced their employability skills and prepared them for future employment.	The two weeks work experience achieved the following: • Enhanced employability skills • Employability sessions • Practical work experience The project empowered the young people that took part. They gained confidence in their abilities, enhanced their skills to succeed in the job market and took part in hands-on exercises including 2 days at E.ON's Net Zero Academy. The placements engaged in a variety of tasks and practical experiences and will be mentored by E.ON for the next year. This programme provides a good framework for future cohorts.
Coventry Grows - Community Growing Programme In delivery	Coventry faces significant green space deprivation and rising food costs impacts the city's most deprived areas. A Community growing programme will transform derelict land for productive food growing and horticulture. This project is in partnership with Grapevine and Garden Organic – all helping to bring communities together to tackle food poverty and increase biodiversity.	The scheme is intended to deliver three growing sites within the most in need communities in the city. The initial site at Heath Road (in St Michaels ward) is being mobilised with site set up completed by November 2025 and harvesting community food by 2026. The programme will address food poverty, enhance climate resilience, foster community cohesion, support nature recovery and promote the city as a leader in sustainable food practices. It will boost skills, affordability, food access and teach people new skills - to grow and cook their own food.

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Social Value Project	Description	Impact
Biodiversity – Treetly tree planting app Initiative In development	Subject to a successful grant funding application, a tree planting initiative which will see thousands of mixed species trees planted on land adjacent to the River Sowe in Wyken ward. Resident involvement is key to this initiative and people who live in Coventry will have an opportunity to take part in a Treetly Active Challenge – walk 5,000 steps a day (or equivalent) for 20 days in a month to earn a tree.	This will contribute significantly to the Council's aspiration of planting a tree for every citizen. It will promote active health and wellbeing challenges.
Books – Primary School book donation In delivery	The SEP have partnered with a local author to commission two books as part of a series which celebrates Coventry's heritage. The books will focus on how to be a good Coventry Kid and will align to the Child Friendly Coventry values with a focus on the 'Be and Feel Healthy' pledge - which encompasses making Coventry a more environmentally friendly city and reducing the impact of climate change. Every school will receive a copy of this book for free to every class in Y1 to Y6. In addition to this the author will facilitate reading sessions which will be supported by SEP volunteers.	All schools in the city will receive a copy of the book along with an engagement letter from the SEP to raise awareness of partnership and funding/grants available to schools. This project will kick start a voluntary reading programme for schools which will be supported by SEP volunteers. The project will also encourage children to read about the city's heritage and be proud of the city they live in. Both books will be distributed to schools in 2025-26.

Social Value Project	Description	Impact
Highly Sprung Completed	Arts and culture driven project using arts and performance to inspire learning, conversation and community change. Children aged 12 to 16 years old used their voices around issues concerning the global and local energy crisis and its impact of poverty and quality of life.	The SEP supported the Young Producer programme with industry knowledge and expertise in four secondary schools in the city, Barrs Hill, Foxford, Sidney Stringer and Westwood. The Accelerate Summit, which was held to showcase the project, took place in November 2024 at CBS Arena. The two-day event, involving over 400 secondary school children who participated in a climate and sustainability workshops, showcased their arts performance and Q&A panel session which included members of the SEP team.
Schools Programme Rollout In development	To provide a social value offering to all schools in the city regardless of if they engage with the SEP from a technical solutions perspective. It will contain a flexible offering from SEP and will include a wider Council service offer – the benefit of this is that the school will be contacted once with a complete offer rather than for each project and engagement. Schools can select what activities are best for their needs and timetabling.	The intention of this project is to offer enrichment activity related to the green sector. Schools can choose from assemblies, workshops, teacher resources, parental information, careers advice or SEND activities and the shopping list approach will ensure all schools get an equitable offer from the SEP. Outcomes include increased pupil engagement within the green sector, inspiring young people to think about energy sources, their role in reducing carbon emissions, supporting a sustainable future, energy uses, smart savings, environmental awareness, etc. All of the interactions will strengthen literacy, STEM skills and include practical activities and problem solving.

Social Value Project	Description	Impact
Retrofit Training Programme	This project has not yet commenced.	
Community Centre Retrofit In development	The SEP plan to retrofit a community centre which will enhance its energy efficiency, sustainability and improve conditions for regular groups and services used by residents. This centre will then act as an anchor point for the SEP to delivery impactful social value work in the community and highlighting our presence in the city. After retrofit the SEP plan to support the services that are run from the building with volunteers, sustainability assistance, career, skills and wellbeing services on an ongoing basis (actual support TBC once centre identified)	This long-term project will help people who are most in need in the city by establishing a flagship community initiative that will have legacy impact by: • Integrating the partnership into the local community and encourage local resident engagement. • Enable “hub and spoke” social value delivery for multiple volunteering initiatives from SEP. • Ensuring the SEP is understood by residents and benefits of the partnership felt in the community. • Reducing energy consumption and carbon, allowing savings to be invested in enhancing centres offering. • Enhancing facility comfort and usability. • Increasing building longevity and resilience.

4. Wider engagement activity

Wider engagement activity has taken place which helps support awareness of the SEP:

- **Careers Fairs.** Supported a number of sessions across the city as E.ON, promoting the SEP, work and apprenticeship offerings of E.ON, E.ON Next, nBS and the Net Zero Academy. Providing guidance on training and career pathways in net zero solutions. Also supported events with CV review and mock interview support.
- **Social Value Conference.** E.ON sponsorship of the Social Value Portal conference. Opportunity to promote the SEP and delivery model of social value to unlock wider benefits to place based partnerships, jobs and skills as part of a Just Transition to net zero.
- **Van wrapping competition.** An Aldermoor Farm Primary School pupil has had their design brought to life as the wrap for E.ON Next's newest electric vans. A competition was run off the back of the schools' programme pilot project for all schools to submit designs which were judged by E.ON exec panel. The vans will transport E.ON Next engineers to homes around Coventry and the surrounding area, installing smart meters and other sustainable energy solutions. [Coventry pupil helps E.ON Next drive the transition to net zero – quite literally | E.ON News](#)
- **Primary Aspirations week.** The second Coventry Primary Aspirations Week took place this year, running from Monday 3 March to Friday 7 March. E.ON supported with 5 school visits and held sessions at their offices in Westwood to give children an insight into their working environment and the great many roles people carry out for them. Across the week approximately 1400 pupils were involved for in-person events, nearly 3000 involved online, 33 schools engaged (13 as hosts), 26 businesses and organisations engaged.
- **Space Centre visit.** A school trip to the National Space Centre in Leicester for 58 children from St John's Church of England Academy. The children enjoyed a presentation all about space and team building workshops focused on getting them ready for some space challenges. They took on the Great Rocket Challenge and succeeded: creating a rocket prototype for Earth's first manned mission to Mars. The children designed and built rockets in small teams and then attempted to launch them on the National Space Centre's custom launcher. The children were also lucky enough to experience the brand-new Tetrastar Spaceport experience, taking a seat aboard the Tharsis spacecraft on a low Earth orbit cruise to see the wonders of our amazing planet. [Delivering social value for young people across Coventry in 2024 | E.ON News](#)
- **Highly Sprung.** Focussing on the energy crisis, the Youth Energy Summit provides a platform to amplify the voices of young people and encourages them to explore solutions to the pressing challenges of the global energy crisis. The summit involved interactive discussions, workshops and presentations from experts and professionals in the field of energy locally to Coventry.
- **Pupil Parliament.** Ongoing support for the Pupil Parliament event. 15 schools attend with over 100 young people in attendance. E.ON held Utopia/Dystopia cities workshops throughout the morning and represented the SEP on a Q&A panel session in the afternoon.
- **Care Leavers Awards.** Furthering our support of supporting care experienced into work, we have previously sponsored the care leaver awards as E.ON and last year jointly as the SEP. The event involves a market hall expo element of the evening

where we can engage young care leavers of Coventry to raise awareness of what the SEP has delivered and its aspirations for the years to come. We can also signpost them to entry level roles and apprenticeships.

There have also been other events where a joined-up approach has been of benefit:

Events:

- UKREiF 2024 – a large-scale developer and investment event in Leeds, which highlighted Coventry as a location for investment. E.ON was lead sponsor of the West Midlands Pavilion and worked alongside the Council to promote not only the SEP but also the city and its location benefits to property & investment professionals. 16,000+ attendees from across Europe came to the event which included 60+ stages, 1,250+ speakers and 150+ exhibitors.

Sponsorship:

- E.ON sponsored the 2023 and 2024 Care Leavers' Awards.

Partnerships:

- The SEP is proactively engaging with potential partners including housing associations and industrial and commercial businesses in the city. There is an expectation that this engagement will lead to additional projects in the future and will be reflected in the 2026/27 Annual Business Plan

5. Next steps

Key milestones we expect to deliver in the next six months include:

- Achieving planning consent for the Lentons Lane solar farm.
- Commencing development of a second solar farm for the city, alongside development of major brownfield rooftop solar PV project.
- Identify a pipeline of interventions to decarbonise heat in the City Centre, Hillfields, and Walsgrave.
- Complete delivery of the Schools Heating (PSDS3b) project, decarbonising heating at St Christophers and Ravensdale schools.
- Complete delivery of the Mayoral Renewables Fund project, installing solar panels at Sidney Stringer and Coventry College.
- Commence delivery of the Public Sector Building Proposition, installing solar panels and other energy efficiency measures at schools across the city.
- Commence delivery of the next phase of the Affordability Pilot, reducing energy bills to the most vulnerable E.ON customers in the city.
- Complete delivery of the Kestrix Pilot, generating insights to support place-based decarbonisation of homes in Hillfields.
- Complete a minimum of 50 retrofit surveys of residential properties in Hillfields to support the delivery of devolved retrofit funding.
- Deliver an early version of an energy digital twin for the city.

- Complete delivery of the Biodiversity – Treekly tree planting initiative, planting thousands of trees in the city.
- Commence delivery of the Schools Programme social value project, offering learning resources and support to all schools in the city.
- Continue development of the Community Centre Retrofit project, having identified the location of the targeted investment.
- Deploy the Fairer Warmth Hub, connecting households in Hillfields with information to promote energy efficiency, affordability, and a fair energy future for all.

The SEP team is focussed on actions to deliver the projects listed above in the short term, developing a plan to prioritise and deliver more projects in the medium term, and identifying projects of a more significant scale in the longer term. The team is also focussed on maximising the impacts of the strategic outcomes set out in the Annual Business Plan in all time horizons.

An update to the Shareholder Committee will be provided in March 2026. This will include the updated Annual Business Plan for 2026/27.