

# Localising the benefits

sustainable policy for  
sustainable energy?

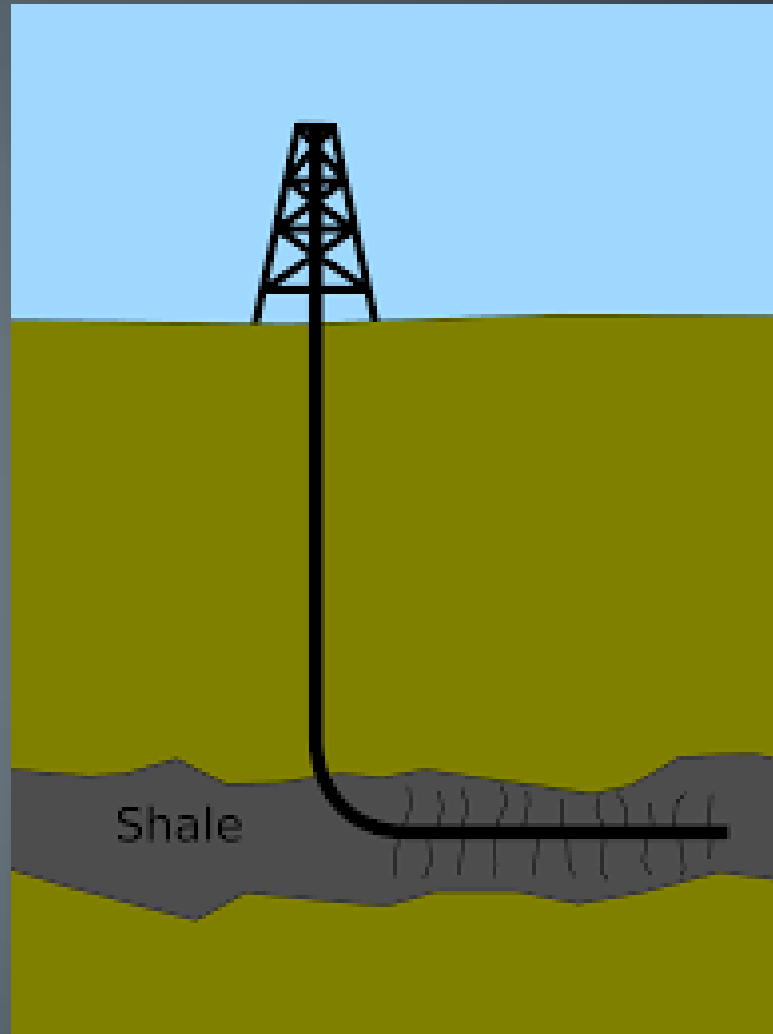
2015

Could be a big year...





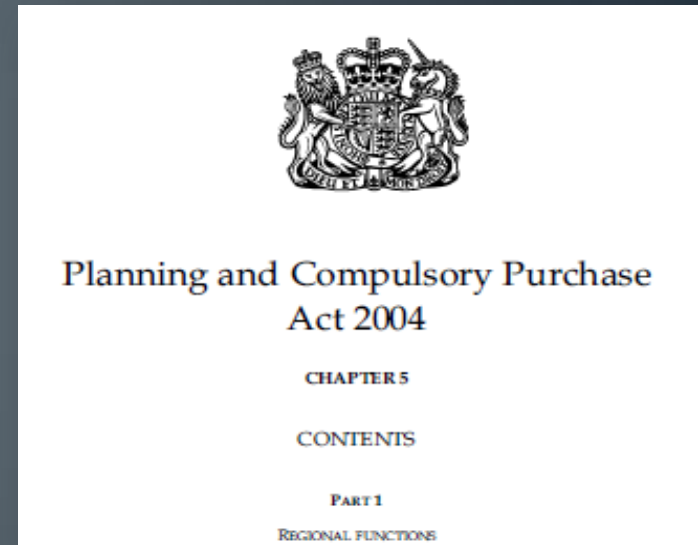




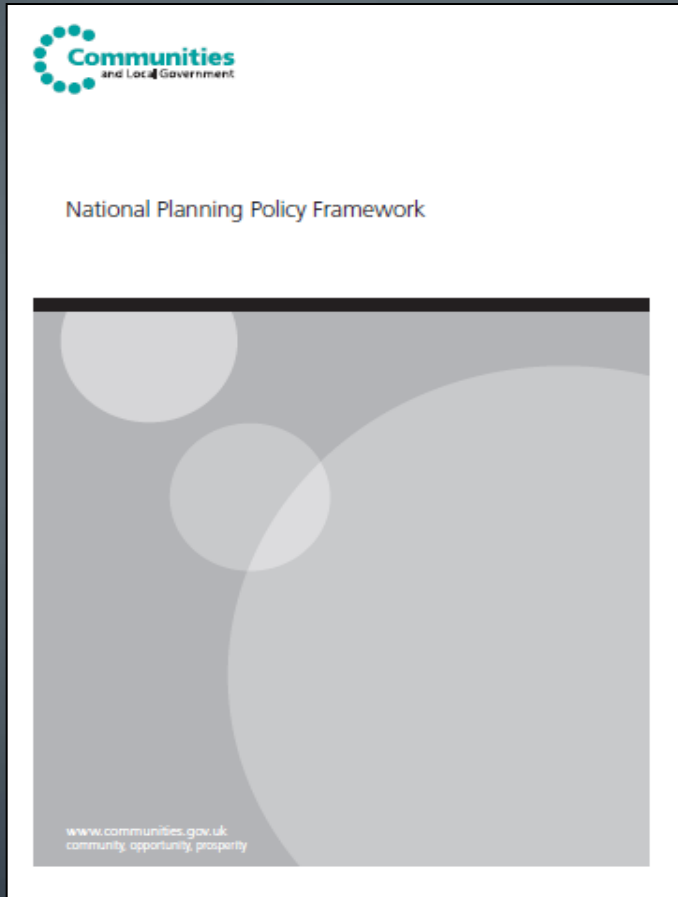


# What part does planning play?

- **Section 19 of the P&CP Act 2004** – policies to secure contribution towards climate change mitigation/adaptation  
Part of test of soundness for Plans.



# National Planning Policy Framework



- Support transition to low carbon economy
- Have positive strategies
- Support community initiatives
- Responsibility of all communities

# Where are we now?

- 23 GW installed
- Peaked just under 18% of UK supply
- Just over 5% total energy
- 2.1 GW in planning

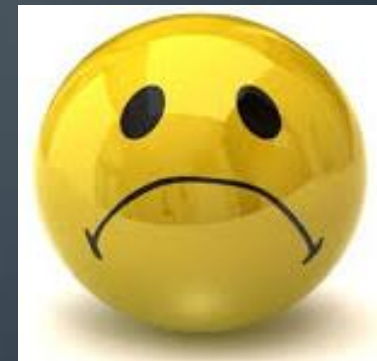
**2020**



**2020 - 25**



**2030**



# Growing challenges and changes

- Benefits do not automatically outweigh planning concerns of communities (July 2013)
- Secretary of State recovering appeals (Oct 2013 & April 2014 – 18 months)
- Compulsory pre-app for wind projects (Dec 2013)
- Community benefit best practice (Oct 2014)
- Community Electricity Right (Infrastructure Act 2015)
- **Changing emphasis to renewable energy within the planning system?**

So how can planning respond?

New ideas?

New policies?

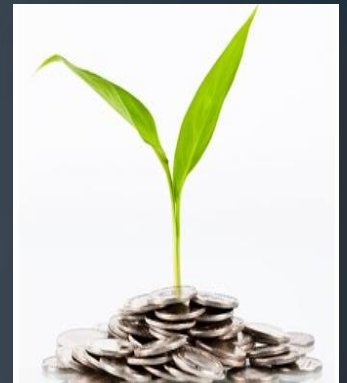
A positive solution

Can we give people that host the infrastructure that will get us towards a low carbon economy a meaningful opportunity to invest and share the benefits?



# What if we could?

- Increased local revenue retention
- Control over community income streams
- Community empowerment
- Opportunity to reduce fuel bills through renewables
- Move towards Local Energy Markets



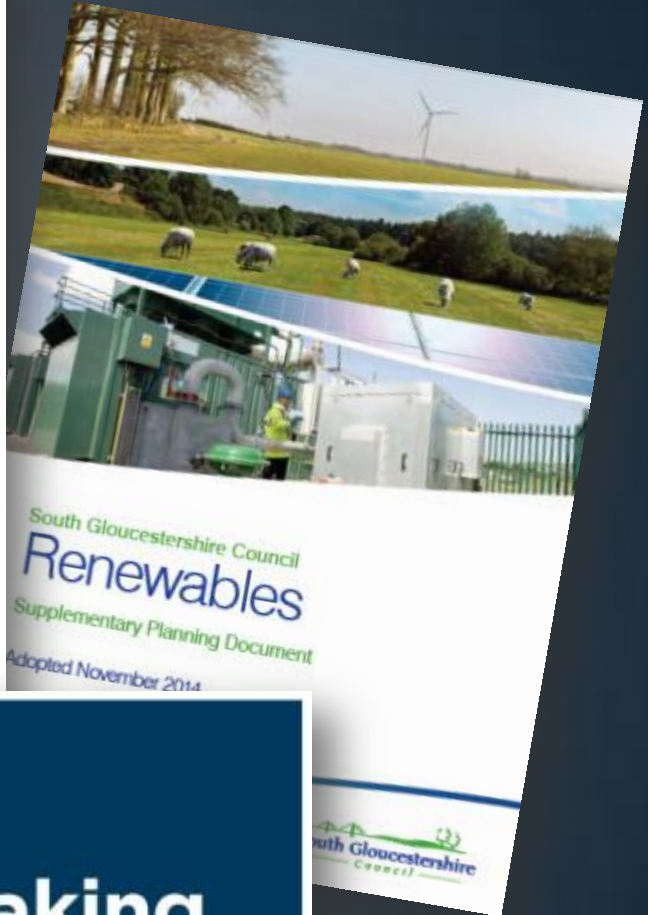
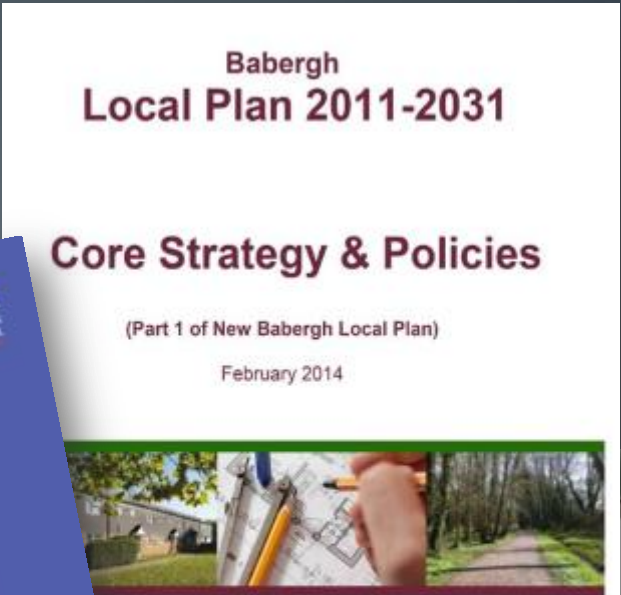
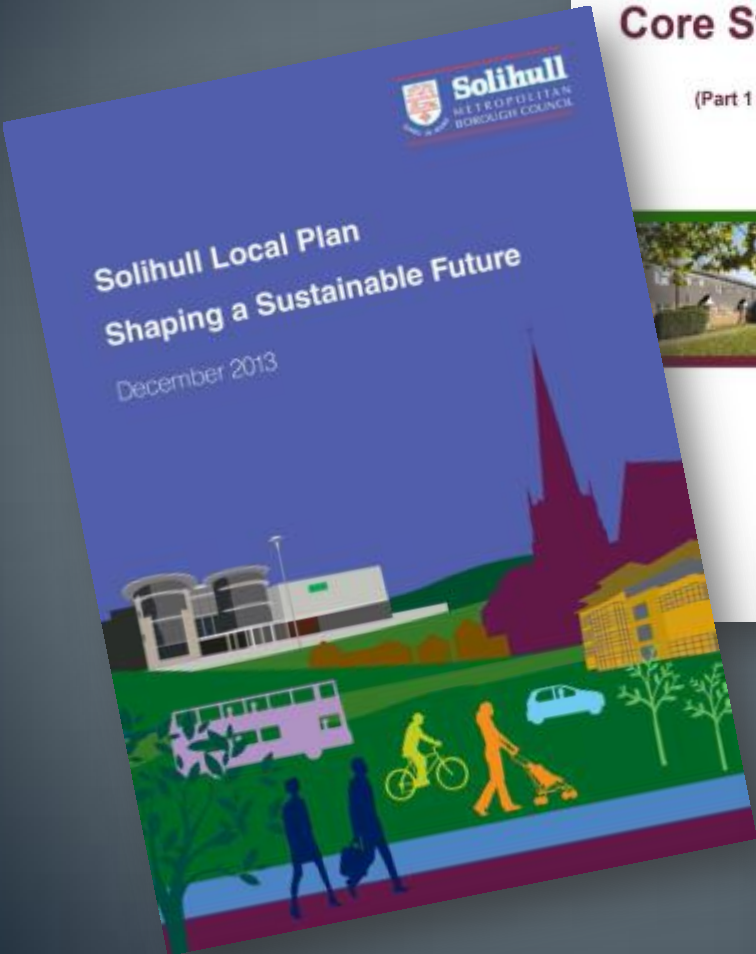
*Cornwall can retain £350m/yr  
in the local economy with a  
local energy market...*



# How can planning contribute?

- NPPF supports community-led initiatives.
- NPPG – do the above because of the benefits for the communities.
- Local & Neighbourhood Plans key to delivery:
  - Encouraging community/municipality owned energy;
  - Promotes local generation linked to local consumption (co-location, smart energy & local energy supply);
  - Framework which enables local people to capture the maximum benefits from their energy system.

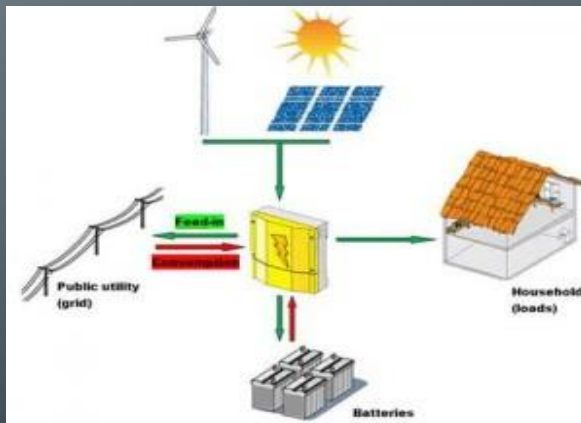






# How far can we take this?

- Neighbourhood Plans offer an opportunity for communities to shape this agenda for themselves.
- Embed Smart Energy and LEM
- Solution means communities and developers have space to make money together.



## Neighbourhood Planning Renewable Energy Advice Note

To date, many Neighbourhood Plans have limited their consideration of energy to a question of whether or not residents support wind turbines or large solar farms. There is much more to be explored and many different ways in which a community can benefit from renewable energy. This note sets out some questions which communities may wish to explore to help ensure that Neighbourhood Plans get the most of Cornwall's clean energy resources for the benefit of residents.

Neighbourhood Plans can include policies which support a range of renewable energy technologies which are appropriate for the area, promote community ownership and encourage associated jobs. In doing so, they can help to tackle some of the key issues facing communities today and in the future.

Community and local ownership, in particular, already has planning policy support in the National Planning Policy Framework and the emerging Local Plan. By strengthening this, Neighbourhood Plans can steer the development of renewable energy towards supporting local businesses, providing a long term source of income for the community and reducing fuel bills by enabling local supply.

**This Advice Note seeks to encourage communities to consider what Neighbourhood Plans can do to help solve the energy issues facing communities. The following questions may help identify how your Plan could help.**

- What does your community think are their key challenges and costs associated with their energy needs, both now and in the future?
- How can renewable energy generation and efficiency measures help meet these challenges?
- Would your community support energy schemes which are owned by and benefit them?
- How might you use the revenue to improve local services and build long term community resilience?
- What are the energy needs and costs of the key employers in your community?
- What can your Neighbourhood Plan do to encourage energy efficiency and generation to reduce the cost of running those businesses (and the risk to local jobs)?
- What energy generation opportunities might there be in your area (in addition to wind and solar, small or large scale, both now and in the future)?
- If, for example, you have geothermal potential<sup>1</sup> would the community want to encourage this and benefit from the technology once it becomes established?
- Can you encourage jobs and new business opportunities in association with emerging technologies such as geothermal?
- Would your community support a positive approach to making use of any heat produced by renewable technologies or from industrial processes?
- If your area is coastal or has a working port, would your community support marine energy and the onshore industries which could grow around it?
- Increasingly 'smart' measures, such as matching energy supply with demand<sup>2</sup> and energy storage will become available. Does the community want to encourage these technologies to help tackle the cost of energy?
- Sustainable transport can be supported through Neighbourhood Plans through, for example, encouraging electric vehicle charging points and cycle routes. Would this be of interest to your community?

<sup>1</sup> There are a range of models to achieve this which don't necessarily require significant upfront finance. The Council can help with this: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/greencornwall](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/greencornwall)

<sup>2</sup> Some more information on the different technologies currently available can be found via this web-link [www.cornwall.gov.uk/renewableenergy](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/renewableenergy)

<sup>3</sup> Geothermal takes the heat from Cornwall's underlying granite and turns it into electricity and heat.

<sup>4</sup> For example, tools which programme your washing machine to start when your solar panels are working.

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