

Bicester Strategic Delivery Board

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| Date of meeting: 17 November 2016 | AGENDA ITEM NO: 7 |
| Report title: LEMUR project completion report | |
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1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the completion of the Local Energy Mapping for Urban Retrofit (LEMUR) project.

2. Background

- 2.1 This report provides a summary for the completion of the 15 month Innovate UK funded LEMUR project between Cherwell District Council, Bioregional, Oxford Brookes University and Future Cities Catapult
- 2.2 It is widely recognised that the majority of the built environment will still be standing in 2050 and that in order to meet the UK's greenhouse gas emissions target a large retrofit campaign will be required. There are also substantial benefits to be gained for residents in terms of fuel poverty and health implications, with positive effects to the health service.
- 2.3 The aim of the project was to integrate the Oxford Brookes' DECoRuM and Bioregional's Community Energy Manager (CEM) into a new innovative service aimed at providing more detailed knowledge on an area's built environment and energy consumption.
- 2.4 This service could then facilitate a more cohesive retrofit and renewable installation programme enabling savings to be made via larger scale retrofit delivery schemes whilst guiding available funding. The retrofit measures themselves would assist in combating fuel poverty and the related health implications.
- 2.5 Community engagement was also essential for the project to work and the success of the different engagement techniques was subsequently analysed. The service was tested in mainly the Highfield area of Bicester due to its density, the strong level of data already available and its estimation of relative fuel poverty.
- 2.6 Engagement with the residents of Highfield and Bicester was conducted positively through a door-stepping campaign, primary school engagement, Bicester day centre, a church event, Bicester library, Grassroots Bicester and through an online Facebook campaign,

3. Key findings

- 3.1 The integration of the DECoRuM and CEM tools was successful with a new service being created and pioneered in Bicester. This success has enabled inclusion in the Oxfordshire

European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) bid to facilitate rolling the service out to multiple areas in Oxfordshire.

- 3.2 Unfortunately the project was intended to function with the Green Deal retrofit scheme and the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) funding which were scrapped and watered down respectively during the 15 months of the project. Ultimately this meant the funding landscape for the retrofit solutions was not available as the replacement funding landscape has been delayed.
- 3.3 The variety of the different community engagement techniques allowed for comprehensive analysis of their effectiveness in reaching different aspects of the community. These engagement techniques will help the service achieve future successes with the Facebook campaign, the church engagement and the Grassroots Bicester engagement.

4. Recommendations

- (1) To note the findings of the report.