

The UK Local Power Plan

An Opportunity for Eynsham and the Surrounding Parishes

What Is the Local Power Plan?

In February 2026, the UK Government and Great British Energy (GBE) published the **Local Power Plan**, committing up to **£1 billion** to support locally owned clean energy projects across the country. The headline ambition is that by 2030, every community in the UK will have the opportunity to own a local energy project.

The plan supports a variety of renewable technologies including rooftop solar, onshore wind, hydro, and battery storage. It is specifically designed for projects that are owned and led by communities or local authorities.

Why might this matter for Eynsham?

Our area — the eight parishes served by the Cuckoo Lane Primary Substation Area — has strong fundamentals for a community energy project: good solar yield (around 950–1,000 kWh per installed kilowatt-peak per year), a range of suitable/viable rooftops and light-industrial buildings, and a community with a track record of civic engagement.

The Local Power Plan provides a structured, funded pathway to turn that potential into reality. It offers not just grant money but expert advice, standardised legal templates, and a route to long-term income for the community.

**GBE’s target: over 1,000 community energy projects by 2030.
Eynsham has an opportunity to be among the first wave.**

How the Support Works

GBE is establishing a one-stop-shop to guide communities from initial idea through to operational project. The support comes in four forms:

Type of Support	What It Means in Practice
Direct Funding	Grants for feasibility and development; loans and finance for construction and operation.
Expert Advice	A team of advisers plus a ‘Community Energy in a Box’ toolkit with templates, guidance, and standardised documents.
Investment Strategy	Help developing repeatable business models, community share offers, and aggregated approaches to reduce cost.
Policy Reform	Government action to remove barriers to grid connection and market access for community-scale generation.

From Expression of Interest to Feasibility Study

The process begins with a simple, no-commitment step: submitting an Expression of Interest (EOI) to GBE’s regional delivery partner, the Greater South East Net Zero Hub. An EOI is not a funding application — it is a signal that the community wants to explore the opportunity. It opens the door to advice, guidance, and access to funding for a formal feasibility study.

Stage	What Happens	Cost to the Community
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Expression of Interest	A short submission outlining the community's ambition, potential sites, and local support. No detailed technical work required.	None. The EOI is free and non-binding.
Feasibility Study	Funded technical assessment: grid capacity, rooftop surveys, financial modelling, legal structure, and community engagement plan.	Grant-funded via GBE Community Fund (up to approx. £40,000).
Development & Build	If feasibility confirms viability: detailed design, grid connection, community share offer, construction.	Funded through community shares, GBE capital toolkit, and revenue from generation.

How the Community Benefits

A successful community energy project, structured as a Community Benefit Society, generates lasting returns for local people in several ways: a local model exists In Clanfield which has been supported by the Low Carbon Hub.

Lower energy costs	Community-generated solar power has a levelised cost of 8–12p per kWh, compared with retail electricity at around 25p per kWh. Local matching models such as Energy Local can pass those savings directly to participating households and community buildings.
Community income	Revenue from power sales, export, and flexibility services creates an ongoing income stream. The asset-locked CBS structure means this income is reinvested locally — into fuel poverty programmes, community facilities, or further clean energy projects.
Local ownership	Residents can invest through a community share offer and receive a return (target above 5% annually). Voting rights ensure the project is governed by the community it serves, not outside investors.
Energy resilience	Battery storage alongside solar provides greater resilience against grid disruption and price volatility, while contributing to national decarbonisation goals.

Parish Council next steps?

At this stage the Parish Council support in principle the submission of an Expression of Interest to the GBE Community Fund on behalf of the community. This is a no-cost, non-binding step that would allow us to access funded feasibility work — the detailed technical and financial assessment that will determine whether a project is viable before any further commitment is made.

**Submitting an EOI commits the community to nothing.
It simply opens the door, potentially to funded, expert-led feasibility work that could work with local groups**

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 Date: April 2026