

Agenda 14b.

COUNCIL
20/08/26

From: GELDERD, Anna (MP) <anna.gelderd.mp@parliament.uk>

Sent: 17 July 2026 15:42

Subject: From the Office of Anna Gelderd MP

Good afternoon,

I am writing to highlight an exciting opportunity for communities across South East Cornwall through the Government's Local Power Plan, delivered by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in partnership with Great British Energy.

The Local Power Plan is designed to help communities, local authorities and public organisations generate their own clean energy, reduce energy costs and ensure more of the benefits of renewable energy stay within the communities that host it. It represents the largest investment in community energy the UK has ever seen, with up to £1 billion available through grants, loans, investment and expert support to help projects develop from initial ideas through to delivery.

The programme supports a wide range of initiatives, including solar panels on schools, village halls, leisure centres and other public buildings, battery storage, community-owned renewable energy schemes and shared ownership projects that allow communities to invest alongside commercial developers and benefit directly from the long-term returns.

For communities like ours, this presents a real opportunity. Generating more energy locally can strengthen our energy security, reduce exposure to volatile international energy markets and create skilled local jobs. It can also generate income that can be reinvested into community priorities, whether that's improving public facilities, supporting local services or helping those most in need. Just as importantly, it gives local people a greater stake in the transition to clean energy, ensuring that the benefits are shared by the communities helping to deliver it.

South East Cornwall has a proud tradition of communities coming together to deliver practical local solutions. From our town and parish councils to schools, community organisations and volunteer groups, we have many organisations that could benefit from this programme. Whether it is installing solar panels on community buildings, reducing running costs for local facilities or exploring larger community energy projects, I believe we have an excellent opportunity to make the most of the support now available.

The Government has also committed to making it easier for projects like these to come forward through planning reforms and by working closely with Great British Energy, local authorities and the community energy sector to help projects progress from the earliest stages through to completion.

Great British Energy is now inviting [Expressions of Interest](#) from local authorities and community organisations. This is not a formal funding application and does not commit organisations to proceeding with a project. Instead, it is an opportunity to outline local ambitions, explore what support may be available and help shape future investment in community energy.

I would encourage you to consider whether your organisation, or groups within your community, could benefit from this opportunity. Even if you are only beginning to explore an idea, registering an Expression of Interest is an excellent first step towards understanding what support could be available.

As your Member of Parliament, I am keen to see South East Cornwall at the forefront of this exciting programme. You can find more information [here](#). If my office can help by providing further information, facilitating conversations or signposting you towards the appropriate support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Together, we have an opportunity to deliver cleaner, more secure and more affordable energy while keeping more of the economic benefits here in South East Cornwall.

Best wishes,

Anna



Anna Gelderd MP

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