

BRISTOL city leap

BUILDING A CARBON NEUTRAL BRISTOL

Community Energy Proposition



Overview

What is the Steering Group?

Bristol Energy Network (BEN) has convened a steering group of local organisations to design, structure and deliver support mechanisms for communities to benefit from the city's transition to net-zero carbon by 2030.

Purpose – Developing a proposal for engagement and participation with City Leap by having a meaningful stake in the transition to net zero carbon.

Aim – establish a wide-reaching contractual framework with City Leap that delivers a sustainable legacy for Bristol residents.

Approach

- ✓ **Formulate a community led proposition** – on behalf of the whole region's community energy sector which will ensure long term support, community benefit and participation.
- ✓ **A practical solution for discussions and negotiations** – both for the community energy sector (direct representation around a single proposition) and the JV bidders (single point of contact)
- ✓ **A helpful solution for the Council** – signpost JV bidders to a single representative group whose proposition will deliver on many of the Council's wider social equality and community participation objectives.

Overview

Who are the Steering Group members?



A partner of Bristol City Leap and an umbrella organisation for individuals and community groups with an interest in energy in Bristol and the surrounding area. . BEN will be engaging communities with the transition to a zero-carbon city and support them in their project ambitions.



Community Benefit Society that has five operational community owned solar projects, including two ground-mounted and three rooftop arrays. Their first project raised its funds through a share offer in 2014 and was completed in 2015.



Founded in 2011, Bristol Energy Cooperative owns £11million of solar and battery assets and has facilitated over £250,000 of community benefit payments to the local community. Projects currently under development include solar, hydro, battery storage and community microgrids.



Bristol-based charity with 70 staff which aims to tackle climate change and end the misery of cold homes. CSE has delivered numerous funding programmes for community energy sector.



Europe's leading ethical bank and has been financing renewable energy for over 40 years. The bank provides both senior debt (project finance) and corporate finance advisory and risk capital raising services to a range of clients – including the community energy sector.



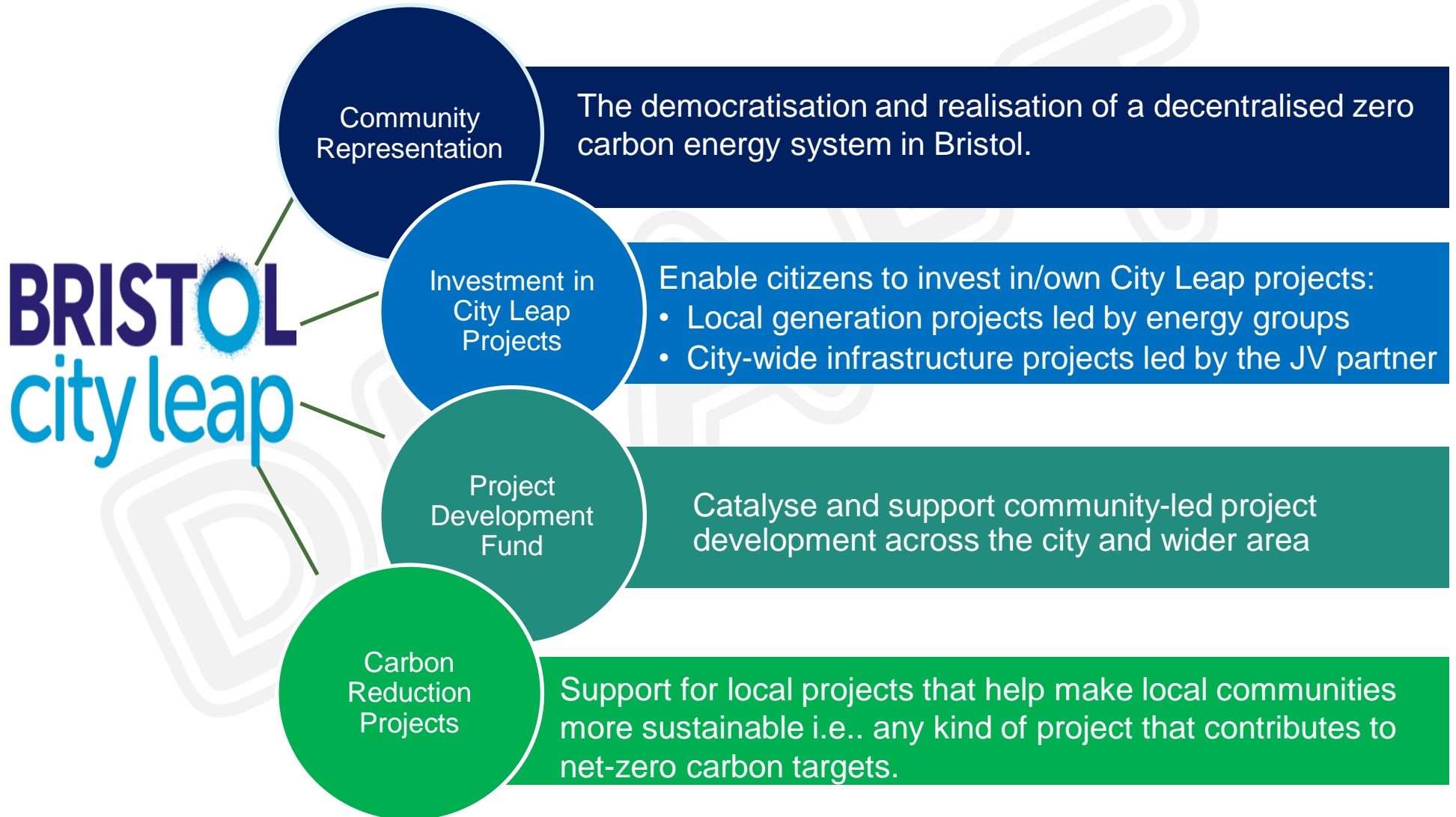
Zero West is a collaboration to accelerate the zero-carbon transition in the West of England. It brings together the commercial sector, the community sector and the four West of England local authorities.



Bristol Green Capital Partnership is the city's environmental sustainability network. Formed in 2007, it is now a community of 950+ organisations from across all sectors working towards a shared vision of a 'sustainable city'

Objectives

What are we trying to achieve through City Leap?



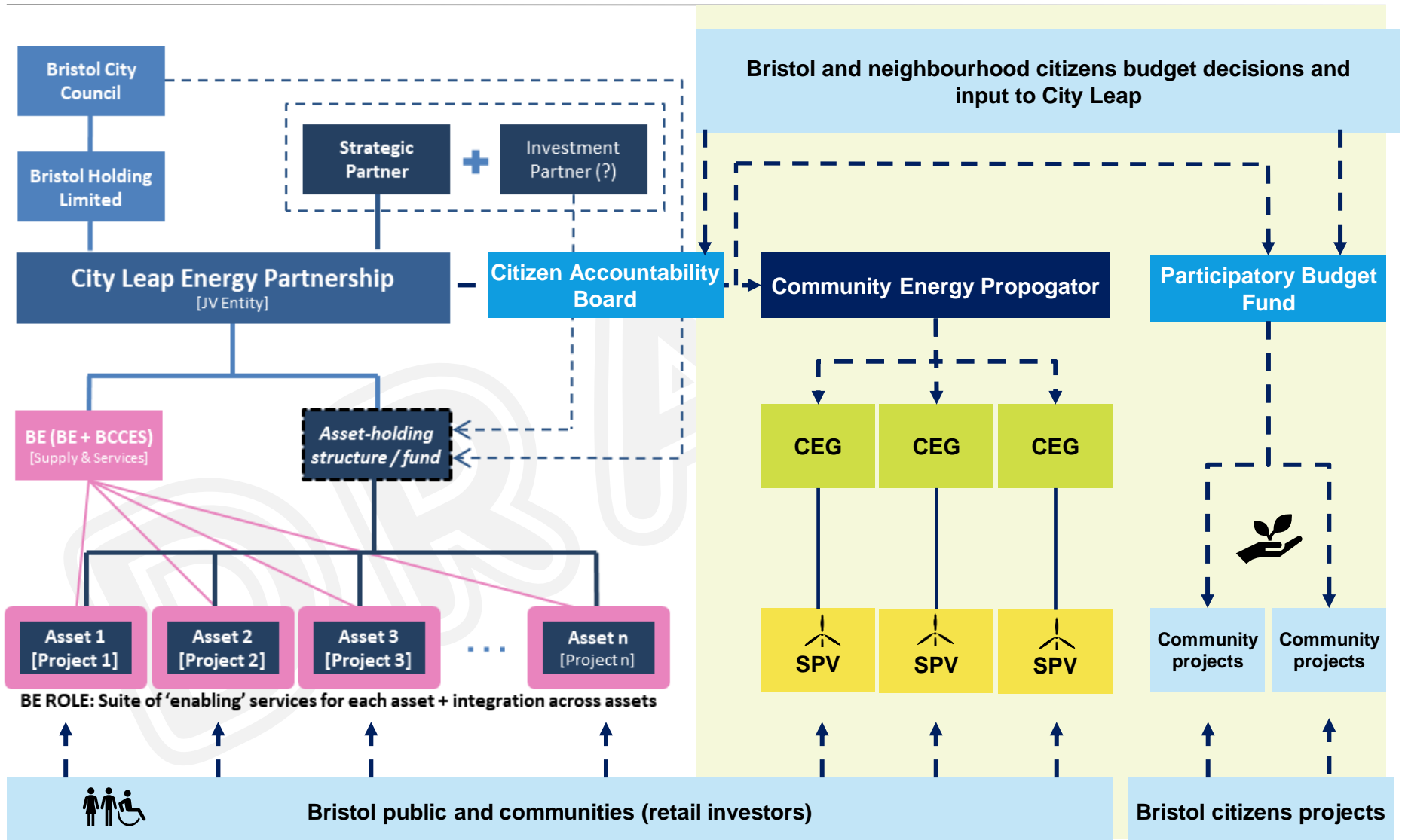
Proposal

How do we propose to achieve this?



1. A **grant fund pot** to finance feasibility and development of community energy led proposals
2. A **Match funding facility** to a community share or bond issue where a) the project has benefitted from initial grant funding and b) the interest rate on the bonds or shares is [4%] or above.
3. An annual minimum **community benefit fund** payment from Bristol City Leap into a Community Benefit Fund. Work with BGCP on Community Carbon Reduction Plans
4. **Community energy representatives** to be involved in Bristol City Leap's governance structure.
5. All Bristol City Leap infrastructure projects should incorporate an **investment offering** through a community share offer.

Proposed Structure



Community Engagement

How can people get involved?



Individuals – offered the opportunity to invest in local generation, become members of community energy groups, determine how community benefit funds are spent through a city-wide democratic structure and switch to a local renewable energy tariff



Communities – engaged by local community groups to create low carbon development plans



Community Energy Groups – supported the new City Leap Development Fund including a network of advisers, specialists and local businesses

Next steps

What are our immediate priorities?

1. Get feedback from the Bristol Region Community Energy sector and wider citizenship on the current proposal with a consultation in the next few weeks
2. Apply for grant funding to develop a business plan and entering into MOUs with the final 3 bidders
3. Make a proposal to the 8 bidders in the City Leap Procurement process
4. Set a framework for deeper discussions at the next stage in the procurement process with the final 3 bidders and incorporate feedback from the community

Questions