



Great British Energy Local Power Plan

Joe Magee-Billson, Local Power Plan Advisor

About GBE

We are a publicly owned energy champion, delivering clean and secure energy for the UK. Crucially, whilst we are wholly owned by DESNZ, we are **operationally independent**.

Backup by **£8.3 billion** of revenue across both GBE and GBE Nuclear.

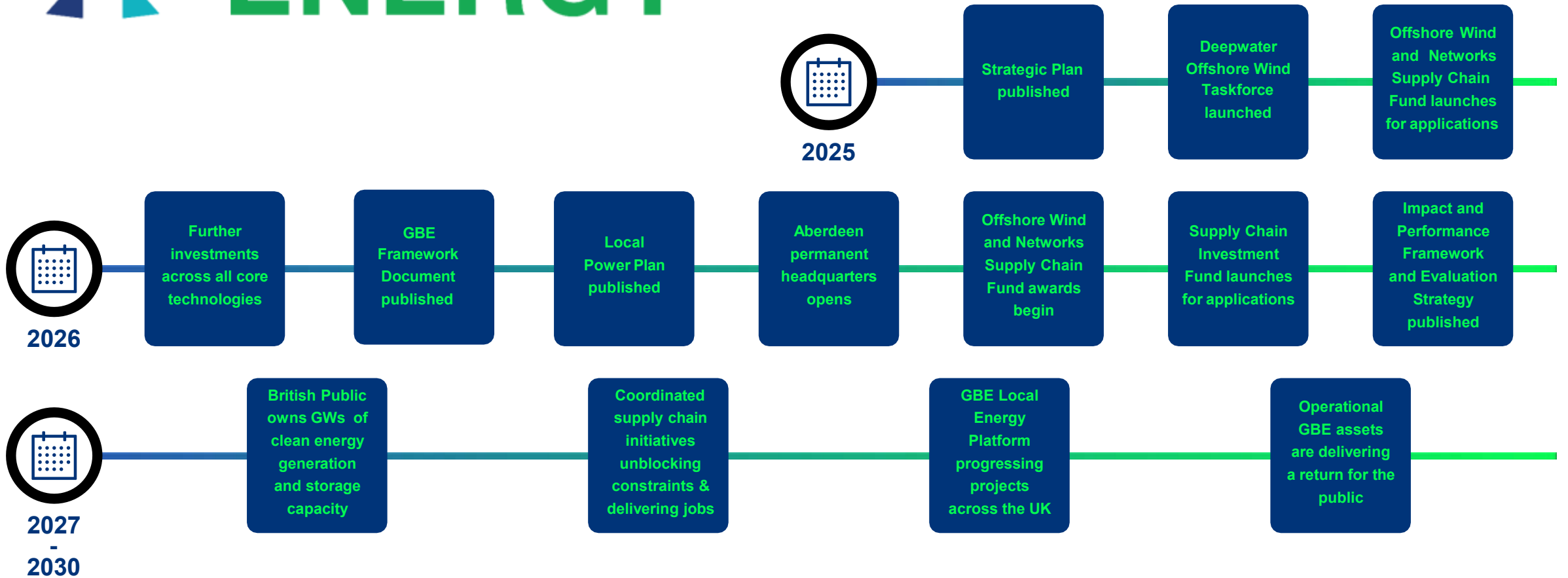
Still in set-up phase, having received Royal Assent in May 2025.

We will deliver over **15GW** in energy generation and storage capacity, and leverage **£15 billion** in private finance.

Catalyse the just transition, supporting over **10,000 jobs** across areas with a traditional oil and gas economy.

Support **1,000 community energy projects** backed by £1 billion of investment.

Delivering **Energy, Engineered in the UK** across our 3 priority areas: Local, Offshore Energy and Onshore Energy



GBE – Local Power Plan

Our vision is:

By 2030, every community in the UK will have the opportunity to benefit from, and own, a local energy project.

1. Power communities: support over 1,000 local and community energy projects, boosting shared ownership
2. Catalyse the development of scalable, self-sustaining business models for community energy organisations
3. Act as a sector leader, market maker, and strategic investor, drive innovation to deliver benefits to communities
4. Help more communities access the benefits of local and community energy, by developing tools to help new communities get involved with community energy

Local Power Plan

February 2026



Local Power Plan – Our Offer

The Plan is for; **members of the public** interested in exploring community energy, **Community Energy organisations** of all sizes and stages, **Local Government**, including councils and combined authorities, **other public sector organisations** who could benefit from renewables.

Together, with trust partners, we will tackle the barriers and market failures that hold project back by offering:

1. **Direct funding**, to overcome barriers of access to finance and funding certainty. This will include support to help projects become financially robust and ready for investment, with the potential to mobilise private capital.
2. **A team of experts to help communities plan and build their projects.** GBE will also support with capacity-building, helping to upskill and build additional expertise and resource within communities and supporting organisations.
3. **A long-term plan to attract more investment into local and community energy** by developing repeatable business models and exploring new ideas such as aggregation.



GBE Local – working with Local Authorities

GBE is dedicating **up to £1bn** throughout the rest of the Spending Review period for local and community energy.

Mayoral and Combined Authority Agreements in England

GBE will partner with Mayoral Strategic more in 2026. Authorities, Combined Authorities and Local Authorities – taking a holistic approach to supporting renewable energy deployment in their regions.

We have already formalised 10 agreements and are in advanced discussions with others.

GBE Capital Toolkit

Launching in Summer 2026, GBE's Capital Toolkit will contain a range of different types of financial and capacity support to suit different projects.

Through this approach, GBE will provide early, direct investment into viable projects and look to aggregate them into portfolios as they progress.

The toolkit will complement existing programmes and be as clear and intuitive as possible.





Local government & community energy partnerships

GBE Local are interested in supporting and encouraging greater partnership opportunities on projects between local government and community energy organisations in their area.

Energise Barnsley – Solar and Social Housing

Energise Barnsley has been set up with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council to deliver community owned renewable energy and heating projects across the Borough.

Project aims: Reduce fuel poverty, develop community resilience, educate residents on energy saving, improve community and local authority partnerships, support the most vulnerable in the community

Energise Barnsley supported 321 council owned homes to receive free solar PV assets

Over 75% of the houses are bungalows housing elderly tenants

25% of residents are on pre-payment meters

In first-year tenants saved over £40,000 in reduced electricity bills



Funding and Finance

Emergence and development grants

- Great projects start with strong foundations. That's why GBE is exploring two **grant funds** to support early-stage project development:
- **The Great British Energy Community Fund** for community energy groups.
- The **Partnership Fund**, backing joint local government and community energy group projects.
- These funds are designed to increase project viability and give these groups the confidence to take the first step toward building a greater pipeline of clean investable projects.

Construction and operation loans

We know the challenges don't stop when a project reaches construction and getting loans for a range of community energy projects can be a barrier. That's why GBE is exploring new loan schemes to help projects move onto the next stage:

- **Construction** - giving projects the backing they need to get built and start generating clean power.
- **Shared Ownership** - enabling communities to buy a stake in larger renewable projects in their area, so the benefits stay local.

These loans will work alongside private investment and community share offers.



Local Investment Funding

GBE will launch a **Local Investment Fund** – searching on a project-by-project basis to identify viable investment opportunities and provide direct investment into local projects.

Capacity and Capability

A strong partner network

GBE Local will develop strong relationships with a range of partners - both regionally and nationally - to tackle barriers to growth. This network will include:

- **Strategic partners** - such as Ofgem, Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and NESO.
- **Project partners**
- **Local Power Plan partners** - Organisations GBE works with to ensure the success of the Local Power Plan, including community energy groups and local authorities. GBE Local will work with these partners to develop a pipeline of projects in the construction and operation stages which we can support.

Expertise in-house and regional support

As GBE establishes itself as a key player in the local energy landscape, we will create an advisory service of specialists so community energy groups and local government can easily access support on a range of topics, such as different technologies or finance. This service will complement existing regional support and ensure every community can access the expertise it needs.

A robust range of templates and guidance documents

GBE will also create a comprehensive “Community Energy in a Box” toolkit for communities, community energy groups and local government. The toolkit will provide clear guidance, standardised documents and resources

to make getting started on, and delivering, projects easier. Currently, we are developing shared ownership templates to be ready in 2026.



Thank you

Any questions?
