



# **STAFFORDSHIRE** COMMUNITY ENERGY

**Staffordshire Community  
Energy Society Ltd**

**Annual Report & Financial Statements for the  
year ended 31 March 2025**

**AGM Notification 24 September 2025**

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# **Staffordshire Community Energy Chairman's Report**

## **Year Ending 31 March 2025**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the Southern Staffordshire Community Energy 2024-25 Annual Report.

We were absolutely delighted to have been recognised in March as the country's leading Community Energy Initiative at the 2025 Green Energy Awards hosted by Regen

Judges said the initiative stood out for its holistic approach, linking clean energy with our community benefit programme in public health and delivering measurable benefits that extend well beyond the simple energy savings. They said: "It's a replicable, inspiring model for others to follow."

We have also been shortlisted for Solar and Storage Live 2025 Alan Clark Award for Community/Local Energy to be announced on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the NEC. Our existing operations have continued to generate cost effective carbon reducing energy for our clients. We are re-investing project surpluses in community projects in Staffordshire, and in building our own operational sustainability in SCE. This is the model we wish to expand upon and why we have been investing in creation of a new project pipeline over the last three years.

I am delighted to report that the first of these projects has now been signed and we have moved into the construction phase. We look forward to an expanded portfolio of rooftop solar with our new site at Stychbrook Leisure Centre, Lichfield. This is a 180kwp rooftop solar installation with the energy being used to power the leisure centre and represents our first significant new facility since our major expansion in 2016.

We continue to look for other opportunities and have been heavily involved in appraising a number of potential projects with our NHS partners.

This is an exciting time for community energy with new opportunities potentially opening up with changes in government approach and we are also actively exploring new options to broaden our activities by moving into ground mounted solar and wind in collaboration with local communities, and to utilise new technical opportunities such as local supply, flexibility and battery usage. We are utilising Energy Redress funding to assist us with the latter and at the time of writing are awaiting the outcome of a further application for funding to work with up to 6 local communities across Staffordshire. This exciting innovative project would explore the potential for community ownership of new local installations to provide direct power supply to communities and reduce energy costs while providing surpluses to assist those in fuel poverty locally.

### **National Policy Context**

The national policy environment has been developing rapidly, particularly with the establishment of Great British Energy with a commitment to implement a Local Power Plan. There is limited detail on the shape of this plan as yet and such funding as has been released so far has been focussed mainly on PV for public sector buildings such as schools, hospitals and fire stations. While there is much to be said for this approach it did provide 100% public funding for an SCE hospital project with Derby and Burton University Hospitals Trust that had reached near agreement as a new SCE project. While this ended a potential SCE project it did mean our appraisal work provided the Trust with designed, costed and implementable schemes for 3 of their Staffordshire sites.

On the positive side, changes to planning guidance have opened up the field for new onshore wind in particular and looks to be in the process of restructuring the grid connections methodology with NGED (National Grid Electricity Distribution) and Community Energy England lobbying for priority for community schemes. Meanwhile GBE has only added an additional £5 million funding for the crucial area of feasibility funding for community energy schemes in this financial year which falls far short of what the sector needs to thrive. We have been actively lobbying our Staffordshire MPs to speak out for the sector on issues such as these and urge our members to do the same.

At a more local level we have seen Staffordshire County Council change from Conservative control to Reform-led Council with a substantial majority. The full consequences of this are yet to be clarified but since we have not managed to engage much interest in community energy from the previous administration that may not impact significantly on SCE activities. We do have good relationships with a number of the eight Staffordshire District Councils but their future is now in doubt with emerging proposals for either one or two Staffordshire unitaries to replace both District and County Councils. Also a strategic Combined Authority with a mayor seems another likely outcome of the Government's devolution agenda. The latter is likely to have a role in Climate and Energy matters, with the impact of that dependent on where political control turns out to lie.

### **Energy market**

The cost of living crunch for consumers and commercial users have eased since the Russia-Ukraine War price shock but they remain significantly higher than before the pandemic. Consumers and public bodies both continue to face spending pressure.

The UK electricity market has seen further progress in supplying green renewable energy. Renewable energy represented 51% of UK grid supplied electricity (46%: 2023). UK government policy is strongly behind further "greening" of the electricity and heating energy market. Scientists have been highlighting the impact of carbon emissions, from fossil fuels, on our climate for many decades and we can all see the changes in climate we are experiencing with heatwaves and heavier rain patterns.

The UK electricity reforms being implemented by the industry are also forcing significant change in how the grid has to operate. This will involve in a major overhaul in the UK grid over the coming years.

SCE has a business model that addresses all of these factors. SCE only supplies green energy. We offer cost effective long term pricing to our clients and by using the electricity on site and in our locality we are easing the pressure on grid supply.

### **Staffordshire Community Energy - SCE**

The strategy for SCE remains unchanged.

- To address the climate emergency by providing renewable energy and helping communities to reduce carbon emissions
- To contribute to Staffordshire's drive toward Net Zero.
- To install, own and operate "green energy" assets
- To create surpluses from these projects to boost our long term commitment to community benefit, especially in alleviating the impacts of fuel poverty.
- To recognise our Staffordshire heartland and attempt to boost locally sourced energy, supply chain and skills.

We aim to expand our impact by increasing the scale of our operations and having more sites.

### **Stychbrook Leisure Centre - Lichfield**

We are delighted to report on our first new site for many years. We are now in the process of installing a 180kwp roof top solar on the new build leisure centre at Stychbrook. This solar array will cost circa £130k which is being funded through the construction phase by a loan and we will look to fund raise the cost of the project in the coming months. I hope that many of our existing members will want to participate in this new project. Annual revenues are expected to be in the region of £25k pa.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our partners at Lichfield Borough Council and thank the internal team and our supply chain partners in the diligent way the project has been marshalled to this build phase. We look forward to report the first power from this facility in next years results with the build expected to be completed before the turn of the year.

### The wider project pipeline

The broader project pipeline is also progressing. In particular we have been working with our partners at the various NHS Trusts. This has seen SCE lead on a grant funded project to appraise a number of roof top solar projects both at NHS hospitals and across the wider NHS property portfolio such as GP Practices. Funding

has come from the Energy Redress grant scheme and from the Community Energy Fund. This work has assisted in the commencement of an installation at Burton hospital which will now be funded by a GB Energy grant directly to the hospital. We continue to try to develop other installations which come within our SCE funding and ownership. We will update you on progress on these opportunities in the coming months.

In addition, we have assessed projects at schools and commercial sites. We will continue to work with potential clients to seek viable projects for further expansion.

#### Beyond Rooftop Solar

Rooftop solar supplier “behind the meter” energy to onsite clients will also most certainly remain a core offering for SCE.

We are looking at energy supply and would consider operating grid connected renewable energy assets such as ground mounted solar or wind turbines. In addition we are also looking into heat or battery electricity storage if this would help clients in managing their energy costs. We do not see ourselves a simple rooftop solar funder.

#### Potential Merger of SCE and Cannock Chase Solar “CCS”

CCS is a community energy company supplying electricity to local residents in the Cannock Chase District of Staffordshire. The Society was formed in 2015 with nearly £1m invested in the installation of rooftop solar on over 300 domestic residences owned by Cannock Chase Council. Since then CCS has invested in battery storage for the properties to enhance the use of solar on site.

We are holding talks with CCS over a potential merger of the two community energy Societies. These discussions are being progressed by your Board with the intention of:

- Creating a larger community energy company in Staffordshire
- Reducing the amount of time spent on administration and “back office” matters and having greater bandwidth to look at new energy ideas
- Having a single and hopefully more effective advocate for community energy to work with local councils, NHS Trusts or larger commercial businesses.

We will present more of the thinking behind this approach at the online AGM

#### **Operational Performance**

SSCE current output from existing sites are shown in the table.

Table.1 Annual Generation Since Inception

| Output in kwh               | Whittington Project | Hospitals Project |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Originally Predicted</b> | 22202               | 224749            |
| <b>2012/13</b>              | 22726               | N/A               |
| <b>2013/14</b>              | 24328               | N/A               |
| <b>2014/15</b>              | 24794               | N/A               |
| <b>2015/16</b>              | 25122               | N/A               |
| <b>2016/17</b>              | 23791               | 65833 (part yr.)  |
| <b>2017/18</b>              | 22001               | 215878            |
| <b>2018/19</b>              | 26182               | 238428            |
| <b>2019/20</b>              | 19628               | 226188            |
| <b>2020/21</b>              | 24930               | 232220            |
| <b>2021/22</b>              | 23817               | 228005            |
| <b>2022/23</b>              | 24734               | 220661            |
| <b>2023/24</b>              | 24611               | 210956            |
| <b>2024/25</b>              | 23584               | 209980            |

The projects SCE has run have been successful in delivering green energy and creating community benefit surplus. One of the key drivers of the desire to install new projects to extend the life of the society beyond the original projects 25 year life and to create a financial self sustainable operation by using some of the surpluses to fund our own operations and growth.

The current portfolio has traded satisfactorily over the year with no major operational issues to report. As ever the generation figure is dependent on UK weather patterns and 2024 saw a poor summer and autumn period with a consequential lower kwh figure noted above.

### **Board Matters**

It is only right and proper to take this opportunity to thank all of our Board colleagues. Their efforts in leading the organisation, and working to expand SCE impact is a great credit to them all. Their efforts go well beyond what could fairly be asked from them.

We would also wish to put on record our thanks to our support staff, Louis de Plessis and Kate Copeland, who have been the engine room behind the new projects.

Post year end we have been joined by three new directors:

Ian Smout has become a Board member and taken on the role as Company Secretary and joined the Board on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025. Ian has great knowledge of community energy and is a member of the CCS Board.

Jason Howlett joined the Board on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and brings a wealth of knowledge on energy and especially in the battery sector

Sharon George joined the Board on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025 with an extensive experience from academia and consulting on energy and in particular green energy projects.

We are delighted to welcome these new members to the Board to increase the knowledge and scale of the Board.

### **Community Fund Impact**

#### Community Benefit from the Whittington Project:

A surplus of £3200 was approved at the AGM in September 2024 and we have distributed the fund to The Friends of Hednesford Park and Tanglewood Days for various environmental and social benefit projects locally. Both projects benefit from our community fund and a detailed breakdown of expenditure is agreed at commencement. We receive illustrated reports on progress to present at Board meetings and both charitable organisations receive additional external funding, thus enhancing the impact of our contributions. We intend to maintain our positive relationship with Hednesford Park and Tanglewood Days in the future.

#### Keep Warm Keep Well NHS Programme

This flagship scheme includes a partnership between NHS University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM), Staffordshire Community Energy and Beat the Cold.

By supporting vulnerable patients who are referred to Beat the Cold by healthcare professionals, detrimental health impacts of cold homes are alleviated, and fuel poverty reduced across Staffordshire.

This scheme is part-funded by clean energy generation through solar panels on UHNM estate buildings. The surpluses generated then support a community fund, which Staffordshire Community Energy allocates to Beat the Cold in support of delivering interventions to patients.

This award-winning, innovative scheme has been operational since 2016 and has supported over 1,000 Staffordshire-based patients.

In 2024/2025 the funds we provided have helped 144 households with a variety of support from energy usage and tariff advice to vouchers for fuel and food.

## Financial Matters

### OPERATING RESULTS Commenting on financial performance by activity:

#### Whittington

Sales for the Year End at £14k are in line with last year.

Cost of sales are also in line with last year.

Operating expenses, outside of professional fees and grant related invoices, are also in line with last year. Professional fees are materially lower than last year (24k vs 67k), but this is purely down to the new methodology to allocate professional fees across both projects as per the ratio used for other costs. In total across both projects, professional fees were 178k this year versus 67k last year, with a deficit when considering Grant income of £10,181. Utilising the agreed ratios this amount is then attributed as an £8.7k costs to Hospitals and a £1.4k costs to Whittington.

Moving to the bottom line, once including member's share interest payments, a Surplus of £18,301 is recorded this year versus £3,200 last year. This is explained by the new methodology to allocate professional fees, and also a donation of £11k to Whittington.

As such, once we subtract the donation, we are left with a financial surplus of £7,301 available for community grant and/ or development.

#### Hospitals

Sales for the Year End at £65,119 are in line with last year's number of £63,827.

Cost of sales are also in line with last year.

Operating expenses, outside of professional fees and grant related invoices, are also in line with last year, once the £7,944 reclaimed grant expense relating to IUK Net Zero are stripped out of the 2024 numbers, due to an increased administration charge from switching from Sharenergy to Energy4All.

Noting the commentary above for Whittington on professional fees is relevant also here in terms of increased costs for Hospitals.

Moving to the bottom line, a Surplus of £17,937 is recorded for this year end, which is materially lower than last year, entirely due to the additional cost of £8.7k coming from professional fees deficit.

### CASH POSITION

Total cash resources at 31 Mar'25 amount to £91k comprising the following:

|                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| - Bank Current Account | £83,4k |
| - 50 day account       | £7.6k  |

#### Interest Payments for 2024-25

The Board proposes to seek members' approval at this year's AGM for interest for the year ending 31 March 2025 as follows:

Whittington Project: at the rate of 4.1% (previous year 4.0%)

Hospitals Project: at the rate of 6.03% (previous year 5.54%)

The Directors expect levels of surplus to comfortably cover annual interest payments at a level which will provide the returns projected in the share Offer Documents for both the Whittington and Hospitals Projects, and that there will be no difficulty in implementing interest rates approved in this way. However, in the unlikely event of a difficulty arising due to unexpectedly adverse financial results, a Special General Meeting would provide a means of reconsidering the interest rate.

#### Whittington Project Capital Repayments

In March'25 the board decided to withhold the capital repayments for both projects to maintain additional liquidity to be able to manage the liquidity drag arising from the payment-in-arrears of professional fees from grant income claims.

The next redemption is projected at 8.33 percent of outstanding capital per share and at a forecast cost of £2,389 which is scheduled to be paid in March 2026, the board may decide to pay a lower amount of capital should it require liquidity during the 2025-2026 financial year.

#### Hospitals Project Capital Repayments

In March'25 the board decided to withhold the capital repayments for both projects to maintain additional liquidity to be able to manage the liquidity drag arising from the payment-in-arrears of professional fees from grant income claims. The next redemption is projected at 8.33 percent of outstanding capital per share and at a forecast cost of £17,165 which is scheduled to be paid in March 2026, the board may decide to pay a lower amount of capital should it require liquidity during the 2025-2026 financial year.

#### **Conclusions**

We have a clear view of our strategy at SCE. Green, cost effective, Staffordshire energy at scale. After three years of working on creating a project pipeline we now have our first new site in the build phase. We are constantly looking for new opportunities and hope to announce further projects in the future. Future developments will be rooted in solar but we are looking at a wider portfolio of projects such as wind, batteries and heat.

We will commence a fund raising for the Stychbrook Leisure Centre in the coming months and we hope that our current membership will support us in that funding round.

The origins of SCE were to support the expansion of green energy. This remains a core tenet for our future. However, our remit has to expand to incorporate the provision of cost effective, community owned projects which help lower energy costs and provide local community benefit.

Neil O'Brien  
Chair of Staffordshire Community Energy Limited

You can keep up to date with SCE on:

Website: [staffscommunityenergy.org.uk](https://staffscommunityenergy.org.uk)

Newsletter opt In: [SCE Newsletter opt In Link](#)

Social media handles: Facebook [@staffscommunityenergy](#)

Instagram: [@staffscommunityenergy](#)

LinkedIn: [@staffscommunityenergy](#)

X [@staffsenergy](#)



## Appendix A

| DETAILED STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND RETAINED SURPLUS BY PROJECT |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          | Prepared | 18-May-25         |
|---|-------------|--------|-------------------|-----------|---------|-------------------|----------|----------|-------------------|
| THIS YEAR vs LAST YEAR  | WHITTINGTON |        |                   | HOSPITALS |         |                   | COMBINED |          |                   |
|   | 2025        | 2024   | Change<br>+ - ive | 2025      | 2024    | Change<br>+ - ive | 2025     | 2024     | Change + -<br>ive |
| % Sales Change vs Previous Year                               |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          |          |                   |
| Feed in tariff  |             |        | 1%                |           |         | 0%                |          |          | 0%                |
| Electricity sales   |             |        | 1%                |           |         | 4%                |          |          | 4%                |
| Sales   |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          |          |                   |
| Feed in tariff  | 13405       | 13280  | 125               | 33407     | 33464   | -57               | 46812    | 46744    | 68                |
| Electricity sales   | 595         | 590    | 5                 | 31712     | 30364   | 1348              | 32307    | 30954    | 1354              |
|   | 14000       | 13870  | 130               | 65119     | 63827   | 1292              | 79119    | 77697    | 1422              |
| Cost of sales   |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          |          |                   |
| Metering and monitoring                                       | -53         | -56    | 2                 | -286      | -355    | 69                | -339     | -410     | 71                |
| Repairs & maintenance,  | -360        | -450   | 90                | -1440     | -1800   | 360               | -1800    | -2250    | 450               |
| Solar depreciation  | -2166       | -2166  | 0                 | -15704    | -15704  | 0                 | -17870   | -17870   | 0                 |
| Insurance   | -308        | -341   | 34                | -1920     | -2130   | 210               | -2228    | -2472    | 244               |
| VAT paid on free electricity                                  | -33         | -29    | -4                | 0         | 0       | 0                 | -33      | -29      | -4                |
| Other direct costs  | 0           | 0      |                   | 0         | 0       |                   | 0        |          |                   |
|   | -2920       | -3043  | 122               | -19350    | -19989  | 639               | -22271   | -23031   | 761               |
| Gross surplus   | 11080       | 10827  | 252               | 45769     | 43839   | 1930              | 56848    | 54666    | 2183              |
| Operating expenses  |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          |          |                   |
| Administration  | -1012       | -852   | -160              | -6314     | -5318   | -996              | -7326    | -6170    | -1156             |
| Advertising and promotion                                     | -8          | -100   | 93                | -47       | -626    | 578               | -55      | -726     | 671               |
| Bank service charges  | -14         | -14    | 0                 | -89       | -89     | 0                 | -104     | -104     | 0                 |
| Dues and subscriptions  | -141        | -110   | -30               | -879      | -689    | -189              | -1019    | -800     | -220              |
| Equipment depreciation  | 0           | 0      | 0                 | 0         | 0       | 0                 | 0        | 0        | 0                 |
| Insurance   | -8          | -25    | 17                | -47       | -156    | 109               | -55      | -181     | 126               |
| Legal and professional fees                                   | -24561      | -67245 | 42684             | -153235   | 0       | -153235           | -177797  | -67245   | -110552           |
| Office expenses   | -4          | -55    | 51                | -24       | -345    | 320               | -28      | -400     | 372               |
| Grant related Invoices  | 0           | -1273  | 1273              | 0         | -7944   | 7944              | 0        | -9218    | 9218              |
| Travel and meeting costs                                      | -39         | -105   | 66                | -245      | -657    | 412               | -285     | -762     | 478               |
|   | -25787      | -69781 | 43995             | -160881   | -15823  | -145057           | -186667  | -85605   | -101063           |
| Other operating income  |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          |          |                   |
| Donations   | 0           | 0      | 0                 | 0         | 0       | 0                 | 0        | 0        | 0                 |
| Grant income  | 23155       | 63358  | -40203            | 144461    | 7944    | 136516            | 167615   | 71302    | 96313             |
| Other Income  | 11000       | 0      | 11000             | 0         | 0       | 0                 | 11000    | 0        | 11000             |
|   | 34155       | 63358  | -29203            | 144461    | 7944    | 136516            | 178615   | 71302    | 107313            |
| Operating surplus   | 19448       | 4404   | 15044             | 29349     | 35959   | -6611             | 48796    | 40363    | 8433              |
| Interest receivable   | 0           | 0      | 0                 | 0         | 0       | 0                 | 0        | 0        | 0                 |
| Members' share interest                                       | -1147       | -1204  | 57                | -11411    | -11,152 | -260              | -12558   | -12356   | -202              |
| Surplus before taxation                                       | 18301       | 3200   | 15101             | 17937     | 24808   | -6870             | 36239    | 28008    | 8231              |
| - Tax on surplus  | 0           | 0      | 0                 | 0         | 0       | 0                 | 0        | 0        | 0                 |
| Retained Surplus  |             |        |                   |           |         |                   |          |          | 0                 |
| - for the financial year                                      | 18301       | 3200   | 15101             | 17937     | 24808   | -6870             | 36239    | 28008    | 8231              |
| - brought forward   | 38614       | 37329  |                   | 24808     | 23289   |                   | 63422    | 60618    |                   |
| Community benefit payments                                    | -3200       | -1915  |                   | -24808    | -23289  |                   | -28008   | -25204   |                   |
| - carried forward   | 53715       | 38614  |                   | 17937     | 24808   |                   | 71652    | 63422    |                   |

# STAFFORDSHIRE COMMUNITY ENERGY LIMITED

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO BE HELD

**NOTICE** is given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at **7:00pm** on **Wednesday 24 September 2025** via Zoom online video conferencing for the following purposes:

### AGENDA

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Presentation of the Annual Review and Unaudited Financial Statements (annual accounts) by Neil O'Brien, Chair of the Board.
3. **Resolution 1:** To **APPROVE** the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17 September 2024.
4. **Resolution 2:** To **RECEIVE** and adopt the Report of the Directors and the annual Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2025, together with the Report of the Accountants thereon.
5. **Resolution 3:** To **RE-APPOINT** the firm of Melville & Co, Chartered Accountants, as the appropriate person to make a report on the accountants for the Society's year of account ending 31 March 2026 at a fee to be agreed by the Board.
6. **Resolution 4:** To **DISAPPLY** the obligation of the Society to appoint auditors pursuant to Section 84 of the Society and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 so that an audit of the accounts of the Society shall not take place for the Society's year of account ending 31 March 2026 (Note 1)
7. **Resolution 5:** To **APPROVE** interest payments to members on outstanding capital at the following rates, subject to financial projections for the year ending 31 March 2026 being achieved or bettered (Note 2):
  - 4.1% to holders of shares in the Whittington Project; and
  - 6.03% to holders of shares in the Hospitals Project
8. **Resolution 6:** To **APPROVE** the application of the entire net surplus 2024-25 of £7,301 from the Whittington Project to the Community Fund and/or for development of the Society (Note 3)
9. **Resolution 7:** To **APPROVE** the payment of the entire net surplus from the Hospitals Project of £17,937 to fuel poverty charity, Beat the Cold (Note 3)
10. **Resolutions 8-9:** To **RE-ELECT** as directors of the Society the following, who are both retiring by rotation in accordance with the Society's Rules, and being eligible, now offer themselves for re-election. (Note 4):
  1. Mike Kinghan
  2. Dave Price
11. **Resolution 10:** To **APPOINT** as a director of the Society the following. (Note 4):
  3. Ian Smout
  4. Jason Howlett
12. **Close of formal business.**

On behalf of the Board  
Ian Smout, Society Secretary  
19 August 2025

Registered Office:  
Unit 26, Trinity Enterprise Centre  
Barrow-in-Furness, LA14 2PN

## **Explanatory Notes**

### **Note 1**

Section 84 of the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014 allows a Society to disapply the requirement to appoint auditors if, at the end of the preceding year of account, the total value of its assets were below £5.1 million, and its turnover did not exceed £10,200,000, provided that:

- it is not a housing association; it is not a subsidiary or have a subsidiary; it does not take or hold deposits (other than deposits in the form of withdrawable share capital); and
- the Society's membership has passed a resolution at a general meeting allowing it to disapply the requirement to appoint auditors for the accounting period in question.

This resolution is asking, on the basis that all the above conditions are met, that members allow the Society to disapply the requirement to appoint auditors for the current financial year. A similar resolution was approved at previous AGMs.

To be passed:

- fewer than 20% of the total number of votes cast must be against the resolution.
- and
- fewer than 10% of the total number of SSCE members (of whom there are 117) must cast their votes against the resolution.

### **Note 2**

As last year, members are being asked to approve the rate of interest paid on capital in advance of the financial year end - in this case for the financial year ending 31 March 2026 - so that interest can be paid on 31 March 2026. As a result of interest payments being made earlier, and coupled with annual capital repayments, it is projected that over the life of the Hospitals Project, the Community Fund will benefit from additional monies over and above those that would have been generated following the previous practice of paying interest well after the year end to which it relates.

### **Note 3**

For further details, you are referred to the Annual Review accompanying the AGM notice.

### **Note 4**

Currently the board consists of six elected members of whom one third must retire each year, plus two co-opted members and two External Independent Directors. Michael Kinghan & David Price are retiring by rotation, and they have indicated that they would like to stand again.

Richard Patey and Sharon George are external independent Directors, under rule 69.

Ian Smout and Jason Howlett were co-opted to the Board and members will be asked to ratify them at the AGM.

The Society received no new nominations to join the Board within the appointed time period. A competitive ballot is not required as the total number of Board members will not exceed twelve. Members are asked to vote to re-elect Michael and David through a resolution.

## **Nominations to the Board**

The Board consists of eight members of whom one third must retire each year. Michael Kinghan and David Price are retiring by rotation and they have indicated that they would like to stand again.

Richard Patey is an external independent Director, under rule 69.

Ian Smout and Jason Howlett were co-opted to the Board and members will be asked to ratify them at the AGM.

The Society received no new nominations to join the Board within the appointed time period. A competitive ballot is not required as the total number of Board members will not exceed twelve. Members are asked to vote to re-elect Michael and David through a resolution.

## **Biographical Notes**

### **Retiring Director's Seeking Re-election**

#### **David Price**

David is 75 years old and has worked in technical and customer service positions for his entire working life.

Initially he was an apprentice electrician at the Midlands Electricity Board for 4 years during which time he qualified to a level 3 certification which included status of electrician and electrical inspector, he continued to work as a fully qualified technician at the Midlands Electricity Board based in South Birmingham for a further 7 years during which time he worked on Industrial & Commercial spending most of his time in domestic installations work.

His next role was as field technician for Thorn Domestic Appliances where he received a vast range of product training and worked in customers' homes supporting the entire range of Thorn products. He continued in this role rising to senior field service engineer supporting a team of Midlands based service technicians in the field.

David resigned from Thorn seeking a career change into Computer Services. He embarked on a 6 month intensive computer engineering training course run by Sperry Univac – a US based computer manufacturer of main frame computers. Upon completion of this training, he was engaged by Digital Equipment Corporation another US based computer manufacturer of large IT systems - as field service technician specialising in data storage systems for main frame computing. He remained in customer facing roles for his 23 years with DEC (and latterly Hewlett Packard) progressing through Service Engineer, UK Tech Support engineer, Client Manager, Client Director and team manager for a group of Client Directors- before taking early retirement aged 58.

David then re-qualified with City & Guilds as electrician and electrical inspector under the new regulations and qualified with the Centre for Alternative Energy a City & Guilds in Solar PV Installation.

By this time, he had set up an electrical inspection and contracting company as Home Electrical Survey and another entity - Home Renewable Energy Limited specialising in Solar Thermal and Solar PV installations. He has been specialising in solar PV ever since focussing mainly on smaller residential systems but has undertaken large scale installations too.

David has always enjoyed working with end users' customers and feels well placed to support Chase Community Energy projects and likewise the Staffordshire Community Energy initiatives, indeed in his role as a contractor for SCE – He has conducted annual inspections of the SCE sites each year and dealt with service issues on behalf of SCE.

He has been a director of SCE for over 5 years in an Operations Role and hopes to help enable SCE to move forwards with new projects in support of the community.

In summary he believes his customer service background coupled with extensive experience with solar PV and storage systems puts him in a good position to support projects in this cohort”.

#### **Mike Kinghan**

Mike was instrumental in the establishment of SCE back in 2011 and Chair for the first 10 years. Since standing down as Chair he has remained a very active member of the Board and has played a part in all major initiatives and funding applications. In June 2012 he was awarded the MBE for services to sustainability and biodiversity in Staffordshire and the West Midlands region.

Mike is currently the Chair of Chase Community Solar, which was established as an offshoot of SCE in 2015 and raised just under £1mn to install 314 solar systems on Cannock Chase Council owned bungalows, mainly occupied by elderly tenants and/or those with life limiting conditions who still receive the benefit of free electricity. They have subsequently installed batteries in 77 of the properties to enhance the benefit tenants receive from their PV.

Mike is an experienced economic regeneration professional who worked in senior positions in local authorities and regeneration agencies as well as running his own consultancy business for several years. Since retirement in 2007 he has played a very active role in climate and energy issues in his home community of Whittington and in Lichfield District and in the broader arena of Staffordshire.

### **Co-opted Directors Seeking Election**

#### **Jason Howlett**

Jason Howlett is a leading Industry voice on the need for decarbonized assets to be deployed at scale across the entire grid, to encompass all users from residential, industrial as well as utility scale, but most importantly, a future that works for everyone in society and thereby help tackle energy poverty as well as net zero.

Jason’s career across multiple industries and companies has seen a 15-year career in renewable energy at a senior level through biogas from anaerobic digestion and hydro at Severn Trent Water, battery manufacturing across Hoppecke and GivEnergy and distribution of solar through Segen and HDM Solar, as well as working for the likes of international companies such as Caterpillar and Rapiscan.

Having worked across almost every continent, engaged with multiple governments and agencies around the world, Jason is an established and credible advocate for clean power and has been the driving force behind establishing the new industry trade body, the Energy Storage Association (ESA).

Locally Jason is passionate about Staffordshire and is a visiting entrepreneur for the University of Staffordshire as well as a board member for Staffordshire Community Energy.

#### **Ian Smout**

In May 2025 Ian was co-opted to the SCE Board until the AGM, and appointed Secretary. He was excited by the Society’s plans for expansion and impressed by the community contribution made through the Keep Warm, Keep Well project. These opinions have been confirmed during his time on the Board, and he is keen to remain a director and is seeking election.

He is a retired Chartered Civil Engineer and has skills and experience in the governance of not-for-profit organisations. Ian’s career included 8 years as Director of the Water, Engineering and Development Centre at Loughborough University, and he has more than 15 years’ experience as a charity trustee/director.

Since 2022, Ian has been a Director and Secretary of Chase Community Solar Limited (a related Community Benefit Society in Staffordshire). This has deepened his understanding of community energy and the workings of Community Benefit Societies, and he has developed skills needed by a Society Secretary. He would be pleased to continue as Director and Secretary of Staffordshire Community Energy if elected”.