

SmartKlub Ltd

**Local Authority Research Project**

**Project Summary**

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**Author: Ben Gallant**

**Supervisor: Charles Bradshaw Smith**

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## **Project Summary**

### **1.1 Research Gap**

As a master's student in the University of Surrey's Centre for Environmental Strategy, I have identified the relationship between local authorities and community energy projects as an area requiring additional research. Drawing upon research by Lemon et al (2015), Webb et al (2016) and Ostrom (2014), as well as various policy documents I noted a potentially underexploited opportunity for local authorities to achieve their goals through community empowerment.

I therefore intend to produce a dissertation exploring the capacity for this symbiotic relationship, with particular reference to the preparedness of local authorities to exploit such an opportunity.

### **1.2 SmartKlub**

SmartKlub share an interest in conducting the above research as its outcomes have the potential to guide their expansion and product development. This work particularly pertains to SmartKlub's CAPE project as it has the capability to enable local authorities to cost effectively enhance the support they provide to their communities.

### **1.3 Research method**

Working with SmartKlub I intend to explore local authorities' engagement with, understanding of, and capacity to support community energy projects. This will involve a series of interviews with local authorities and a national survey to provide context. In order to gain the best possible insight, it is important that we achieve a strong response rate to this survey.

### **1.4 Opportunity**

It is our understanding that your organization may be able to support this project through the provision of relevant contacts in order to target the survey most effectively. In exchange for access to this data, I would be willing to provide your organisation with access to the finished dissertation and would be happy to present my findings at their convenience.

## **Dissertation Summary**

**Working Title:** Empowering community energy: an evaluation of how well equipped the UK's urban local authorities are to stimulate, facilitate and support community led energy projects.

**Abstract:** Despite a rich literature on both community energy and local authority response to climate change, little research has been done into the capacity for local authorities to support community energy projects as a means of achieving targets. Using semi-structured interviews and a national survey, this dissertation explores the preparedness London boroughs as an indicator the national trends.