

By email
8 October 2024

Ofgem
resp@ofgem.gov.uk

Your ref Ofgem
Our ref SC

Dear Sir/Madam

Regional Energy Strategic Plans

Arup response to consultation

I am pleased to submit this response to the above public consultation on behalf of Arup.

Arup is an independent firm of designers, planners, engineers, consultants, and technical specialists offering a broad range of professional services. We provide the engineering and related consultancy services necessary across the built environment. Within the energy sector, we work across the entire value chain, from generation to networks to use and management, providing both technical and advisory services.

Our direct interest in RESP is based on more than a decade of experience with public and private sector clients to evaluate, plan and deliver sustainable, low carbon energy transitions at asset, city, regional and national scales. Specifically, this experience includes:

- Delivery of over twenty Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) in England, Scotland and Wales. As one of the earliest adopters of the LAEP methodology, we have observed at first hand both the value and challenges of LAEP, and driven changes to the method in response to evolving client requirements.
- Development of the Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategy methodology in Scotland, and support to multiple authorities to prepare their LHEES
- Preparation of the National Comprehensive Assessment of the potential for low carbon heat networks in the UK, which was a founding piece of evidence to support the Government's heat network strategy and policy agenda
- Deep involvement in the development of the Government's Heat Network Zoning (HNZ) policy since it was announced at the end of 2020. Our roles over the past five years have included data architecture design and national data collection; national zoning model development; HNZ policy design; zoning method testing with cities; zoning body organisational design; and system implementation.

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- Assessment for DESNZ of future gas network transition pathways under different hydrogen scenarios

Moreover, we have undertaken engagement this year with a diverse range of industry voices through roundtables and one-to-one discussions on RESP and LAEPs. Whilst our consultation response is made on our own behalf, we have reflected these other voices in drawing our response together.

In summary, we strongly support the overall aims of RESP. A strong and clear framework for energy spatial planning has been a missing piece of the policy and planning needed to deliver on the UK's net zero commitment in a coordinated way. However, we would also advocate that RESP is implemented in a way which builds upon the considerable body of work on local, regional and national energy spatial planning already in place or in development. RESP should accelerate action, not be a reset button.

We have provided detailed comments in the attached form, following the structure of the questions provided in the consultation document.

Yours faithfully



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