

We are currently involved in the Net Zero Living programme with Regen where we share our net zero ambitions and progress with them. We work with them closely on multiple different projects and are always keen to get their advice and support. We are aware that Regen has put together a response that incorporates our views as discussed with them and other stakeholders. Though we thought it would be beneficial to submit our own response to strengthen this.

We are in favour of the decision to introduce the Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESP) policy framework from Ofgem. The plans introduce change that will offer us greater opportunities to engage. We are already asked to provide data on an annual basis to network planning processes like the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES). We would want to ensure that there is minimal additional work needed to also share this with Ofgem through the new RESP framework.

**Q1. What are your views on the principles (in paragraph 2.8) to guide NESO's approach to developing the RESP methodology? Please provide your reasoning.**

We agree with the 4 proposed principles for the RESP methodology and support the focus on place-based approaches to energy system planning. We would want to ensure that social value is embedded into this process so that any benefits are distributed fairly when it comes to new energy projects, this may add an additional step to the RESP framework process.

**Q2. Do you agree that the RESP should include a long-term regional vision, alongside a series of short-term and long-term directive net zero pathways? Please provide your reasoning.**

We agree that RESPs should have a long-term regional vision alongside short-term and long-term net zero pathways. We think that the short-term pathways should be 5 years. A 10-year period is too long and risks significant changes of which may impact how the plan is delivered.

**Q3. Do you agree there should be an annual data refresh with a full RESP update every three years? Please provide your reasoning.**

We believe that an annual data refresh is needed and think that 3 years is a suitable time period to base this on. Ideally this would not add additional steps for resubmitting data we are already sending for existing processes.

**Q5. Do you agree technical coordination should support the resolution of inconsistencies between the RESPs and network company plans? Please provide your reasoning.**

We should be offered the option to be involved with this technical discussion though we recognise that the detail and knowledge needed may go above our in-house capabilities.

**Q9. Do you agree with the framework for local actor support? Please provide your reasoning.**

Currently there are no clear statutory requirements/functions on energy or net-zero throughout the UK. Though we are making progress to ensure that net-zero principles are embedded into all our directorates and departments.

We recently undertook a 'grid enquiry' which gathered evidence on the challenges of network constraints. Through a series of workshops with internal council staff, local stakeholders and energy networks operating across Dorset, our elected members and councillors gained a deeper understanding of the energy system challenges, and solutions that can help us meet our infrastructure ambitions to support economic growth and net zero.

We will always welcome additional support and the sharing of various tools to help us with the framework. This will ensure consistency of data across the board and more meaningful engagement.