

**INDIVIDUAL EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION
REFERENCE IMD:**

TITLE	National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) Consultation
DECISION TO BE MADE BY	Executive Councillor for Environment and Climate Emergency - Katrin Harding
DATE, MEETING ROOM and TIME	8 December 2025 LGF 4 - 13:30, 8/12/2025
WARD	Non-specific;
DIRECTOR / KEY OFFICER	Director, Place and Growth - Giorgio Framalico

PURPOSE OF REPORT (Inc Strategic Outcomes)

To outline the council's response to the consultation being run by the National Energy Systems operator (NESO) on the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP).

RECOMMENDATION

To support the submission of the council responses to the consultation and provide any additional feedback.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

Towards the government's national Clean Power 30 Act (CP30), the organisation 'NESO' has been assigned to produce a report which will help inform the coordination of energy distribution networks. This 'tRESP' report will assess a range of factors to identify existing and future energy supply and demand to help meet local and national goals regarding reduced greenhouse gas emissions, lowered energy use and increased renewable energy generation.

While these goals follow similar focus areas from the councils Climate Emergency Action Plan ([CEAP](#)), to further support alignment, the council have the opportunity to respond to this consultation and input local information or feedback which may have been challenging to collect at a national scale. This includes ensuring the appropriate data is being utilised for pathway modelling.

The below detail outlines the questions in the consultation and the councils' responses (in bold) to be submitted to support the above, excluding administration questions. Further information on this consultation is available on the NESO [website](#).

Due to the limited timescale of external submission, some minor changes have been made to responses in this report compared to the external response. These do not change the message from the response but are done to support greater clarity of the response for all users.

Background

Nations and Regions Contexts:

1. Are the Nations and Regions Contexts accessible, clear and easy to interpret? What improvements would you like to see?

Yes

2. How well do the Nations and Regions Contexts reflect your understanding of your nation or region?

Moderately well

3. Do you agree with the elements and topics included in the Nations and Regions Context and is there anything missing that you would have expected to see?

Yes

4. How do you envisage using the Nations and Regions Context(s)?

In alignment with the regional energy plans, elements from this context may help support the outline and background of local area energy planning, along with then supporting discussions with stakeholders over a wider area, such as across councils.

5. Do you have any feedback on the data selected for the specific topics included for the Nations and Regions Contexts?

No

6. Do you have any feedback on how the data was presented visually?

No

7. What additional data do you think we should be considering either for tRESP or full RESP?

Within the tRESP process, some of the information submitted as part of the request for information (RFI) stage may be lost in a gap of uncertainty between the DNOs connection process and the strategic investment process. This has occurred with one of our own submissions, whereby the project is in the connection process with our DNO (SSE), but has not yet received an agreed connection date, therefore it is assumed it will not be captured from their data sent to NESO. As we have started the connection process with SSE, it is automatically rejected from being included within the uncertain strategic investment projects based on the pre screening questions, meaning this project and other projects that are in a similar position are appearing to be unaccounted for in the tRESP mapping.

If this is being replicated on a wider scale with other authorities, this could substantially impact on the pathways modelling and meeting of energy supply

and demand in the future. Therefore, we recommend that these additional projects, classed as ‘uncertain’ under current specifications, are incorporated into the modelling process via an appropriate mechanism. Further clarity on the data gathering process for the future RESP iterations would also be desired in line with this, to further understand how changes will be incorporated into future modelling.

Pathways:

8. The purpose of the tRESP Pathways is to drive consistency across DNO forecasting, as part of their business plans for 2028-2033 (ED3). Are the steps we are taking to drive consistency, via the baselining and alignment, clear and proportionate? Are the set of tRESP building blocks and the approach to creating Pathways fit for purpose?

Maybe - The general approach is appropriate and useful, however as detailed in our response to q7, we question if all the relevant data has been fully incorporated.

9. Will your organisation use the Pathways? If yes, which of the building blocks and for what purpose?

Maybe - As a high level approach aligned with government strategies and our own existing trajectories approach in similar areas, these pathways may be utilised if the data is demonstrated as significant. This would primarily involve the number of electric and hybrid vehicles, though we would aim to also utilise heat pump data in the future, all supporting aligned local area energy planning.

10. Pathways will be published for each building block, down to Grid Supply Point feeding area, and for each RESP nation/region. What is your preferred format to receive the Pathways?

Any data for the council is most useful at a local authority, Berkshire wide or potential future Strategic Authority level, or as close as possible to these boundaries. This would be within the existing map format, alongside in spreadsheet form, with supporting context, for the building blocks mentioned.

Consistent Planning Assumptions (CPAs):

11. The objective of the tRESP CPAs is to drive consistency across DNO demand forecasting as an input to DNOs’ network impact assessment to create their business plans for the ED3 period (2028-2033). Will your organisation use the tRESP CPAs for other purposes? If so, for what purpose? Is the format of the CPA value workbook usable for this purpose?

Maybe

12. Are the definitions of the CPAs clear, as described in the tRESP methodology and detailed design document and the tRESP CPA value workbook?

Neither agree nor disagree

13. Based on the methodology, do you agree with the values established as tRESP CPAs in the value workbook? If not, are there any additional or alternative data sources

which are more appropriate? Answers should refer to specific CPA numbers e.g. EV01 and adhere to these criteria: • Be based on a reliable source • Be relevant • Be up-to-date • Be location-specific • Consider changes through time, and • Consider weather and climate impact.

Neither agree nor disagree

14. Do you agree with the scope and granularity of the assumptions in the CPA value workbook, considering the materiality and complexity of implementation of a more detailed or granular approach? If not, can you provide evidence to support the use of a more or less detailed or granular approach? See the value workbook for an overview and further detail of the scope and granularity of the tRESP CPAs.

Neither agree nor disagree

Strategic Investment Need (SI Need)

This consultation sets out our emerging view of SI Need as part of the tRESP process. It includes draft narratives, hotspot examples, and spatial illustrations intended to test our developing approach and gather feedback that will inform both the final Q1 tRESP outputs and our full RESP framework. We are seeking views on several areas:

15. Do you feel that the definition and framing of Strategic Investment Need (SI Need) is clear?

Somewhat disagree - As outlined in our response to q7, projects with a degree of uncertainty do not appear to fall into this category, any submission category from a DNO perspective, or be incorporated in another way. It is also unclear whether uncertain projects are included on the 'development register' and how projects on this list feed into the strategic investment planning process. Therefore, further clarity for any projects with uncertainty in these respects would be beneficial.

16. Are the emerging SI Need areas broadly aligned with the approach and framework we have set out, including the use of Strategic Value and Uncertainty as assessment criteria?

Strongly disagree - Uncertainty does not appear to have been included as an assessment criteria from our experience as any project with a degree of such is highly likely to be excluded by the currently defined criteria, as outlined in our response to q7.

17. Does the combination of RESP area narratives, maps, and hotspot descriptions provide a clear and helpful picture of where emerging needs are arising? Is the level of detail suitable for your purposes?

Strongly disagree – Currently the mapping shown does not incorporate our large project which was submitted through the RFI process, meaning it is difficult to assess whether any emerging needs are fully captured at this stage. Further clarity on if this will be possible in future iterations would be beneficial.

18. What level of geographic detail would be most useful in future versions?

Local authority boundaries, Project-level details, Place-based clusters or zones, Thematic areas (e.g. heat networks, industrial clusters)

19. Do you see a role for these outputs in supporting local planning, infrastructure alignment, investment proposals?

Maybe - If these outputs are demonstrated as significant then it will be explored incorporating these as background context within local area energy planning to ensure alignment and coordination with wider work.

20. Are there any locations you would expect to see identified as SI Need that are not currently being assessed? Please highlight these and, where possible, provide supporting information.

Yes - As detailed further in our response to q7, currently the mapping shown does not incorporate our large solar project which was submitted through the RFI process. This has been queried without further clarity being provided on this current uncertainty gap. Further clarity on if this will be possible in future iterations would be beneficial.

Business Case (including Analysis of Issues)

N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces unprecedented financial pressures as a result of; the longer term impact of the COVID-19 crisis, Brexit, the war in Ukraine and the general economic climate of rising prices and the increasing cost of debt. It is therefore imperative that Council resources are optimised and are focused on the vulnerable and on its highest priorities.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A	N/A	N/A
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A	N/A	N/A

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision
No cost

Cross-Council Implications (how does this decision impact on other Council services, including property and priorities?)
Where potentially applicable, other relevant teams have been consulted for any input as a part of this response collection and submission process. This has primarily included the property and planning teams, though no additional information has been received.

Public Sector Equality Duty
No impacts from only completing the consultation.

SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES	
Director – Resources and Assets	None Received
Monitoring Officer	None Received
Leader of the Council	None Received

For Highways use only	
<i>If your item is not about a highways matter you do not need to complete the Town and Parish Council information or the Local Ward Member information</i>	
Town and Parish Councils	
Local Ward Members	

Reasons for considering the report in Part 2

List of Background Papers
N/A

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