



We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.

Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation on the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP).

Important: Please submit only one response to this form per organisation. Please respond via text in the form; each text box has a limit of 20,000 characters.

To help us process responses more quickly and ensure consistency, attachments cannot be accepted or submitted via this form. Attachments will only be accepted by exception - if you wish to submit a request, please contact: box.consultations.resp@neso.energy.

To help you draft your responses, a PDF copy of the consultation questions [is here for reference](#). **However, please note all final responses will only be accepted via this online form.**

The purpose of tRESP is to help make the transition from the way that electricity and gas distribution networks are currently planned, to the new Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) approach, which will be in place from 2027. tRESP is focused on supporting the process to set the ED3 price control for the electricity distribution network operators (DNOs).

If you have comments on topics outside the scope of this tRESP consultation, please look out for our consultation on the full RESP Methodology, which will be published in November 2025. Further details will be published on [NESO.energy](https://www.neso.energy) and in our newsletter [here](#).

These questions are split into six sections:

1. About you / your group / your organisation
2. Your engagement to date with RESP
3. Context for the Nations and Regions
4. Pathways
5. Consistent Planning Assumptions (CPAs)
6. Strategic Investment Need (SI Need)

Responses are saved as you progress through the form, so you don't have to complete all questions at once. **However, please note that they are only saved as you go to the next**

page of the survey. You will be able to download a copy of your responses as a PDF at the end.

About you / your group / your organisation (mandatory questions)

1. What is your name?

The Climate and Biodiversity Team

2. What is your email address?

climateaction@southandvale.gov.uk

3. What is your role / job title?

Senior climate action officers/corporate energy officer

4. What is your organisation name?

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils

5. Please give a brief overview of your organisation:

South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are two local authorities in Oxfordshire, who operate under shared agreements and have a shared officer team. District councils are mostly responsible for place-related services, such as housing, planning and licensing.

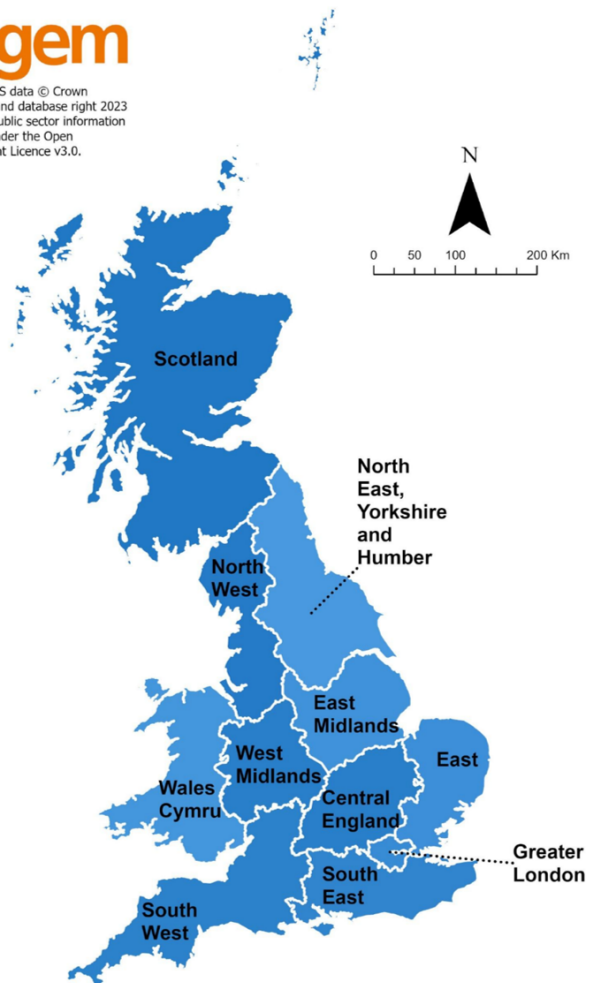
6. Which category best describes your organisation? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ 1. Householder, community group or representative of a local community, inc. a local campaign group
- ☒ **2. Local authority or a representative of local authorities**
- ☐ 3. Business or a representative of businesses
- ☐ 4. Large energy user – e.g. industrial business, port, airport
- ☐ 5. Housing or commercial developer
- ☐ 6. Non-energy infrastructure provider – e.g. water, telecoms, transport
- ☐ 7. National or GB-level campaign or interest group/organisation
- ☐ 8. Network operator – distribution (electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs), independent Distribution Network Operators (iDNOs), Independent Gas Transporter (IGT) or trade association)
- ☐ 9. Network operator – transmission (TOs, National Gas)
- ☐ 10. Installer, operator or trade association for low carbon technologies e.g. EV chargers, heat pumps, solar, batteries, etc.
- ☐ 11. Manufacturer of energy infrastructure equipment
- ☐ 12. Flexibility provider inc. aggregators
- ☐ 13. Renewable energy or storage project developer and/or operator
- ☐ 14. Hydrogen producer
- ☐ 15. Researcher, innovator, think tank or consultancy
- ☐ Other - please specify:

7. Which Nation or Region are you / your organisation located in, or interested in? (Select all that apply - for reference, a list of Local Authorities by nation / region [is here](#))



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- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Wales
- ☒ **Central England**
- ☐ East
- ☐ East Midlands
- ☐ Greater London
- ☐ North East, Yorkshire and Humber
- ☐ North West
- ☐ South East
- ☐ South West
- ☐ West Midlands

8. Has your response been approved by your internal governance / approval process, where relevant?

☒ **Yes**

☐ No

9. Following your submission, are you happy to be contacted specifically in relation to this consultation, to further understand your views?

☒ **Yes**

☐ No

10. How would you like us to treat your response?

☒ **My response can be published**

☐ My response is confidential - not to be published in an identifiable form

Your engagement to date with RESP

1. Have you engaged with NESO on RESP before this consultation?

☒ **Yes - please explain how:**

Attendance at RESP forums and submitted responses to previous requests for information

☐ Maybe - please explain how:

☐ No

2. Are you planning to join the next RESP Forum in October 2025?

☒ **Yes**

☐ Maybe

☐ No

3. Do you feel the RESP Forums are an effective way to engage with you / your organisation?

- ☐ Strongly agree
- ☐ Somewhat agree
- ☒ **Neither agree nor disagree**
- ☐ Somewhat disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

4. If you attended a RESP Forum before, which nation or region was it for? (Select all that apply)

- ☐ Scotland
- ☐ Wales
- ☒ **Central England**
- ☐ East
- ☐ East Midlands
- ☐ Greater London
- ☐ North East, Yorkshire and Humber
- ☐ North West
- ☐ South East
- ☐ South West
- ☐ West Midlands

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 - please suggest any improvements:**

Overall, yes the Central England context is clear and accessible. It is helpful to be able to zoom into the maps. However, in most the place names are not visible which makes it difficult to work out exact locations/boundaries and some map keys are missing/incomplete. Please note that South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils are not members of the Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership (see reference in regional decarbonisation targets section).

☐ No - please suggest any improvements:

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

☐ Extremely well

☐ Very well

☒ **Moderately well**

☐ Slightly well

☐ Not well at all

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

☒ **Maybe**

Would it be possible to differentiate the operational and planned generational capacity by type (i.e. wind, ground mounted solar, roof top solar etc)?

☐ No

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

The councils are unclear how to use the Central England context. It may be useful as evidence and background information for reports, although the regional scale/lack of district-level granularity may limit its usefulness in this regard.

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?

☒ **Yes - please explain:**

Overall, the layout is easy to follow and it is easy to find the right information. The placing of the text on the screen does jump about a bit depending on the presence of a map.

☐ No

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

The full RESP should incorporate data and targets that are set through local area energy plans, where published.

Pathways

8. The purpose of the tRESP Pathways is to drive consistency across Distribution Network Operator (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?

☐ Yes - please explain:

☒ **Maybe - please explain:**

We welcome the adoption of consistent baselining and consistent DFES methodology across DNOs as our council geographies cover more than one DNO. We welcome the use of the Future Energy Scenarios Holistic Transition Pathway to develop the tRESP Pathway to 2035 as this aligns with the approach and modelling in the forthcoming Oxfordshire Local Area Energy Plan. It is possible that local variations within the Central England area have not been fully captured, for example varying rates of take up of electric vehicles. As a local authority, we do not have sufficient knowledge of the modelling process to comment on whether the alignment review framework is fit for purpose.

☐ No - please explain:

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

☐ Yes - please explain:

☒ **Maybe - please explain:**

As a local authority, we do not have in house expertise relating to energy modelling. Therefore, at present, we do not have capacity to use the Pathways data. In Oxfordshire we are working to prepare a series of district-based Local Area Energy Plans. These are due for completion in May 2026. Following the publication of the reports, we have commissioned capacity-building support which will focus on training and skill development for district councils. This aims to ensure councils have the tools to revise the LAEP analysis in the future. At this point we may be able to incorporate Pathway data into our Plans.

☐ No - please explain:

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?

We anticipate that future iterations of our Local Area Energy Plans will be carried out using SSEN's Local Energy Net Zero Accelerator modelling tool (LENZA). We are therefore likely to use data in a format that is compatible with LENZA.

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?

☐ Yes

☒ **Maybe**

Not yet known whether the councils will use the tRESP CPA for other purposes. The data might be useful for drawing up outline business cases and feasibility studies, or for high-level assessments of the impact of planning policies.

☐ No

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

☐ Strongly agree - please explain:

☐ Somewhat agree - please explain:

☒ **Neither agree nor disagree - please explain:**

We are not clear what is meant by definitions here. For a local authority, the level of complexity of the CPAs makes it difficult to get a full understanding.

☐ Somewhat disagree - please explain:

☐ Strongly disagree - please explain:

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.

We do not feel informed enough to answer this question.

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.

☐ Strongly agree - please explain:

☐ Somewhat agree - please explain:

☒ **Neither agree nor disagree - please explain:**

We do not feel informed enough to answer this question.

☐ Somewhat disagree - please explain:

☐ Strongly disagree - please explain:

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?

☐ Strongly agree - please explain:

☐ Somewhat agree - please explain:

☒ **Neither agree nor disagree - please explain:**

The definitions of Pathways and Strategic Investment Need are explained thoroughly but in lengthy, complex documents. If additional input from non-expert audiences such as the business sector is required in the future, a more concise presentation using everyday language will be required.

☐ Somewhat disagree - please explain:

☐ Strongly disagree - please explain:

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 agree - please explain:

☐ Somewhat agree - please explain:

☒ **Neither agree nor disagree - please explain:**

The emerging Strategic Investment Need areas reflect the information that has been provided to date. It is likely that there is a lot of data missing from business and industry due to factors such as lack of awareness, lack of engagement, uncertainty and commercial confidentiality.

☐ Somewhat disagree - please explain:

☐ Strongly disagree - please explain:

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 agree - please explain:

☐ Somewhat agree - please explain:

☐ Neither agree nor disagree - please explain:

☒ **Somewhat disagree - please explain:**

The hotspot descriptions are clear. We agree that the hotspot descriptions of 'Housing and retrofit growth zones' and 'Campus and innovation parks' are representative of our areas. However, the Central England area is large and diverse. In such a large area it is difficult to provide an overall narrative that accurately represents individual district council areas.

☐ Strongly disagree - please explain:

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

☒ **Local authority boundaries**

☐ Project-level details

☐ Place-based clusters or zones

☐ GSP (Grid Supply Point) boundaries

☐ Thematic areas (e.g. heat networks, industrial clusters)

☒ **Lower layer super output area / data zone**

☐ Anything else? (Please explain)

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

☒ **Yes - please explain:**

Areas of Strategic Infrastructure Need can be used to develop investment proposals at a suitable scale and identify potential connections such as heat networks.

☐ Maybe - please explain:

☐ No - please explain:

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 - please explain:**

We anticipate business growth and business decarbonisation around the following areas • Harwell Campus • Culham Campus • Enterprise Zone 1 (Science Vale UK) • Enterprise Zone 2 (Didcot Growth Accelerator) These locations are all part of the wider Science Vale area and would benefit from whole system planning.

☐ No - please explain:

Thank you for completing the questions. If you have comments on topics outside the scope of this tRESP consultation, please look out for our consultation on the full RESP Methodology, which will be published in November 2025. Further details will be published on [NESO.energy](#) and in [our newsletter](#).

You will be able to download a PDF copy of your responses on the next page.