Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) External Governance Quarterly Summary: Q1 January -March 2025

Responses to the SSEP draft methodology consultation were received in January 2025. Over this quarter the analysis of the feedback from the consultation has been shared and discussed at the external governance groups. Once finalised the SSEP methodology will be submitted to Ofgem and the Secretary of State for approval and published in Q2 2025.

The SSEP monitoring and evaluation plan, as required by the commission, has been shared with and reviewed by the governance groups to develop a clear approach for continuous improvement and assessing the outcomes of the SSEP. This monitoring and evaluation plan has been approved by the SSEP Committee and will be submitted for approval alongside the methodology in Q2 2025.

In February, we held the first Expert Advisory Group (EAG), which completes the external governance structure in place to support the development of the SSEP. The EAG includes representatives from the stakeholder working groups which include Environmental, Land and Sea Use Spatial Planning, Industry and Societal Interest working groups, and will provide technical insight, advice, challenge and review to NESO from our stakeholders across all geographical GB areas.

The second EAG in early April gathered stakeholder feedback on how NESO engaged on spatial scoring and initial views on the how they envisage the SSEP will look. EAG is seeking new members who can bring valuable cross-cutting insights to the debate to this advisory forum. For more details, see the role outlines.

The focus of the Analytical Working Group (AWG) and Analytical Evidence Advisory Group (AEAG) this quarter has been refining the key analytical changes to the methodology following feedback from the consultation and finalising the inputs to be used in the modelling.

 In next quarter the focus will be on sharing modelling outputs with the groups to inform the pathway option development process.

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