

Public

NESO Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP) Forum 4

February 2026

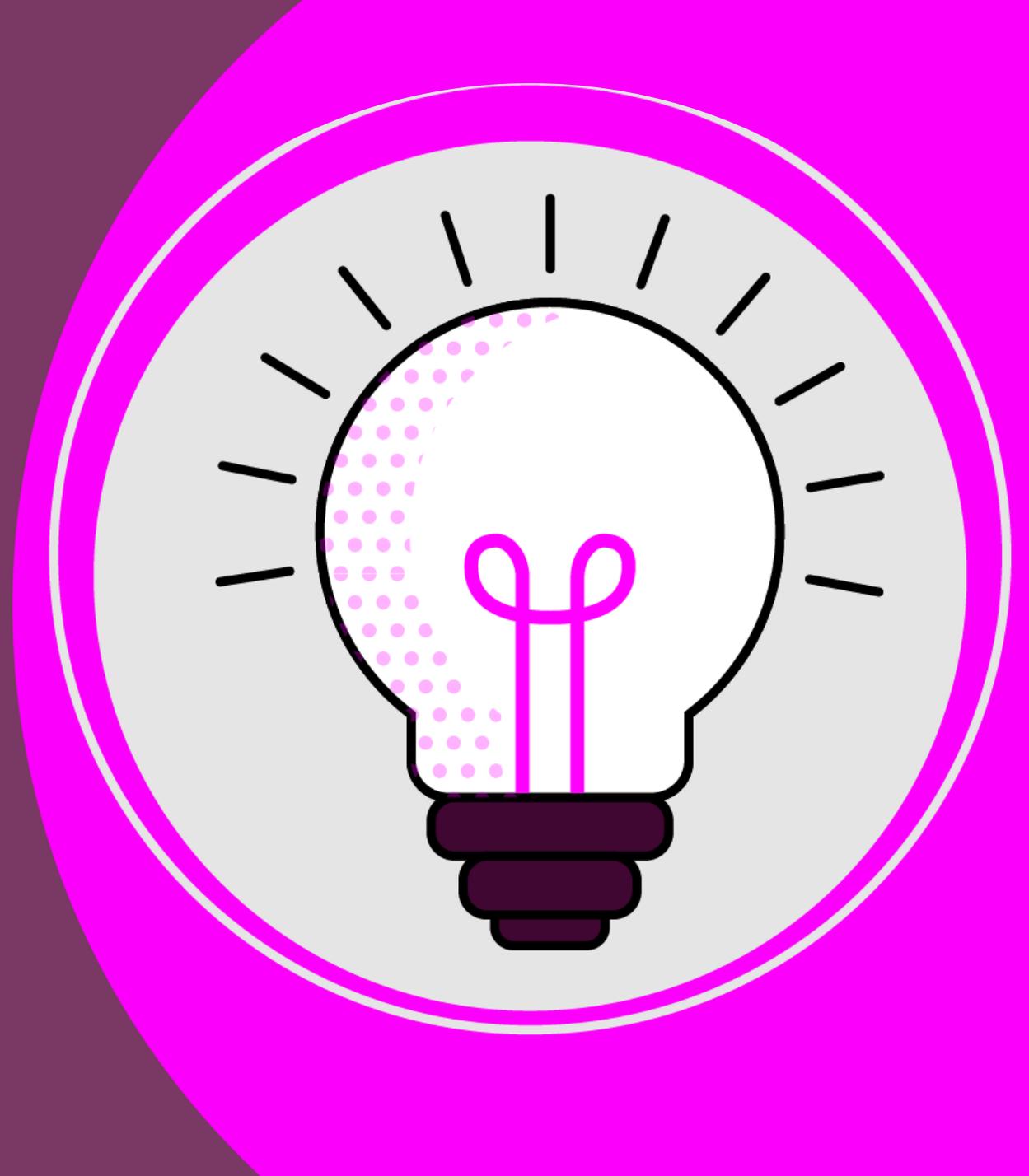
Housekeeping



Transparency Statement

- Attendee lists will not be shared externally
- All questions, comments and reactions through the Q&A tool will be treated as anonymous unless you choose to share your details
- We will share the slides and a write-up following the Forum. The write-up will cover all 11 RESP Forums

Our Transparency Statement for tRESP related projects can be found here:



Agenda

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. Progress Updates since last Forum
3. Final Transitional RESP Update (tRESP)
 - 3.1 tRESP Release
 - 3.2 SEN Update
4. tRESP Q&A
5. Full RESP
 - 5.1 RESP Roadmap
 - 5.2 RESP Methodology Update
6. Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) Update
7. Next Steps & In-Person Forums
8. Q&A & Poll

Summary of the Third Forum

The third RESP Forums took place in October 2025:

Forum 3 Agenda:

1. Progress Updates since last Forum
2. Transitional RESP (tRESP) Consultation
 - Nations and Regions Contexts
 - Strategic Investment Need (SI Need)
3. Full RESP
 - Roadmap
 - Methodology
4. Strategic Spatial Energy Planning (SSEP) Update

794

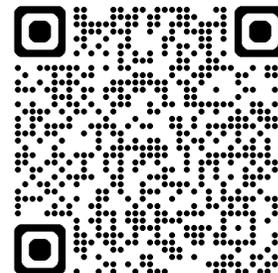
Attendees in total

454

Attendees interacted through Q&A and polls

3.7/5

How relevant was the Forum



**RESP
FAQs**

2. Progress Updates since last Forum

3. Final Transitional RESP Update

3.1 tRESP Release

Transitional RESP (tRESP)

What is tRESP?

1. Serves as a transitional bridge to Full RESP
2. Focused on supporting strategic direction of electricity Distribution Network Operator (DNO) business plans
3. A request from Ofgem
4. Intended to drive consistency and ambition

What did we deliver?

Nations and Regions Contexts

Pathways

Consistent Planning Assumptions

Strategic Energy Need

Glossary: **DNO – Distribution Network Operator.** An organisation responsible for managing the infrastructure that carries electricity from the national transmission grid to homes and businesses.

Glossary: **Ofgem – Office of Gas and Electricity Markets.** The energy regulator for Great Britain.

3.2 Strategic Energy Need Update

Overview of SEN

What is SEN:

Strategic Energy Need (SEN) is one of NESO's tRESP components.

It determines geographic areas where a strategic approach to electricity network investment, ahead of certain need, may be required to enable key priorities across Great Britain.



What has changed since the last Forum:

Following discussions with Ofgem, we've changed our product from 'Strategic Investment Need' to 'Strategic Energy Need'.

SEN Assessment

We have developed our assessment methodology to ensure alignment across tRESP as well as other NESO activities.

Alignment of generation/ storage projects with connections reforms

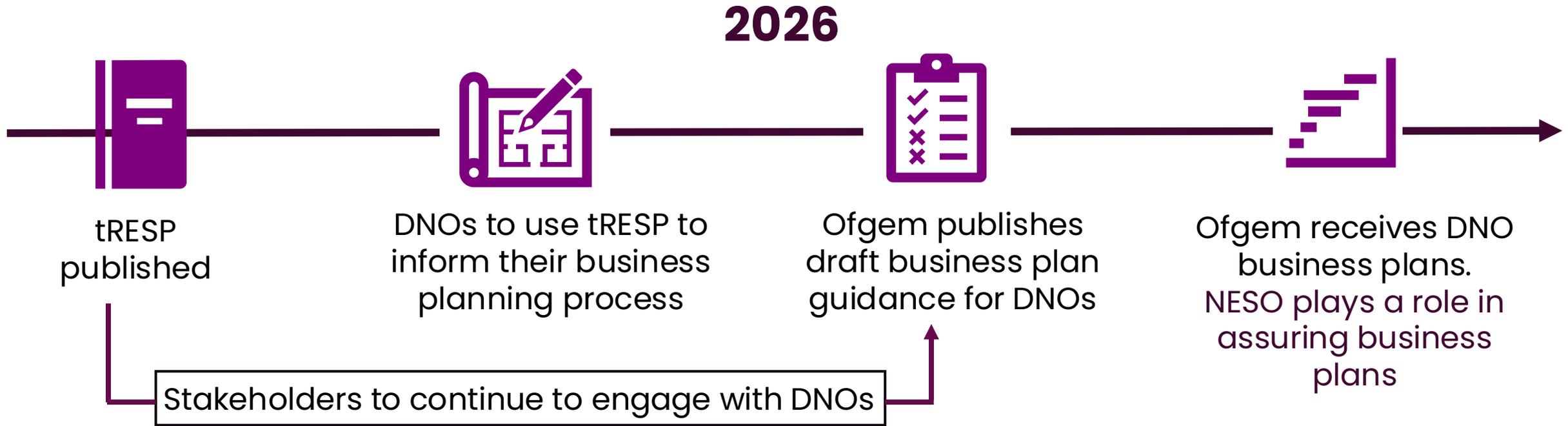
Alignment of energy needs with tRESP Pathways

Assessed the energy need against our Strategic Value and Uncertainty assessment criteria

We have used three categories of energy needs:

1. Needs that have been assessed as strategic to the nation or region
2. GSP areas to be considered for proactive investment
3. Early stage or needs within the scope of transmission connections reform

What happens next?



The full RESP methodology consultation has recently closed. We are incorporating lessons learnt from tRESP into full RESP methodology.

Glossary: DNO – Distribution Network Operator

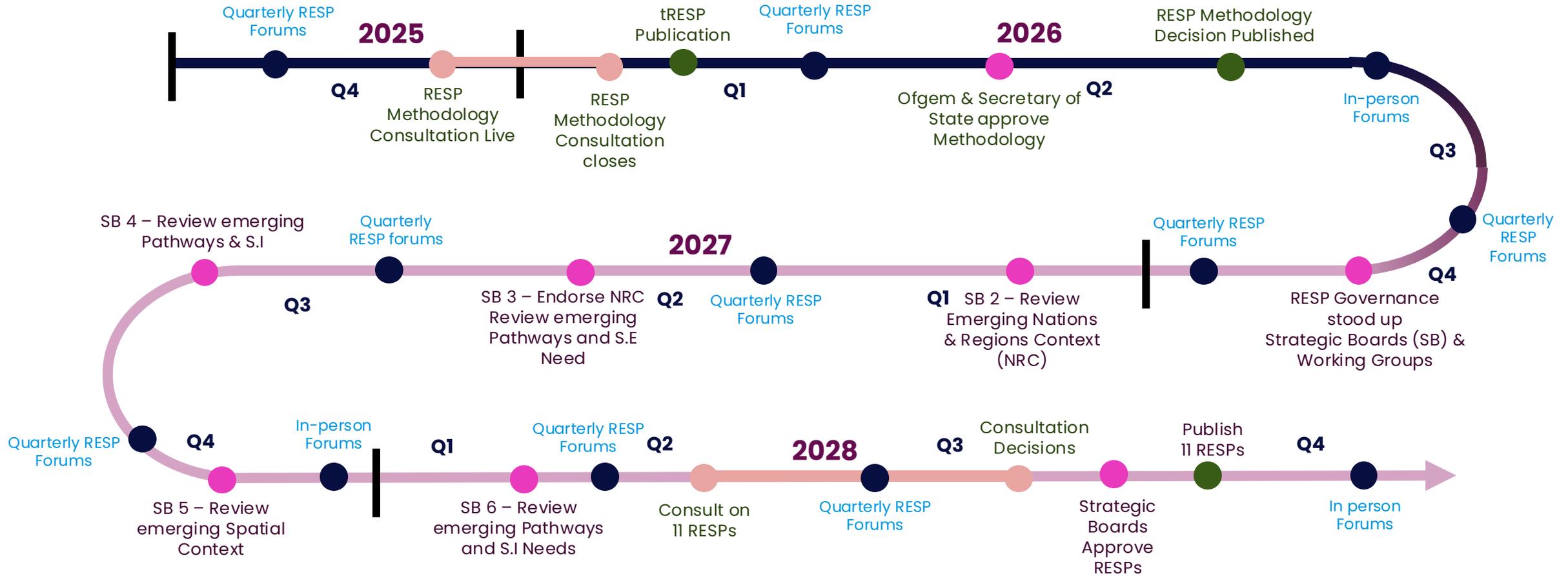
Glossary: Ofgem – Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (energy regulator)

4. Q&A

5. Full RESP

5.1 RESP Roadmap

RESP Roadmap - 2028

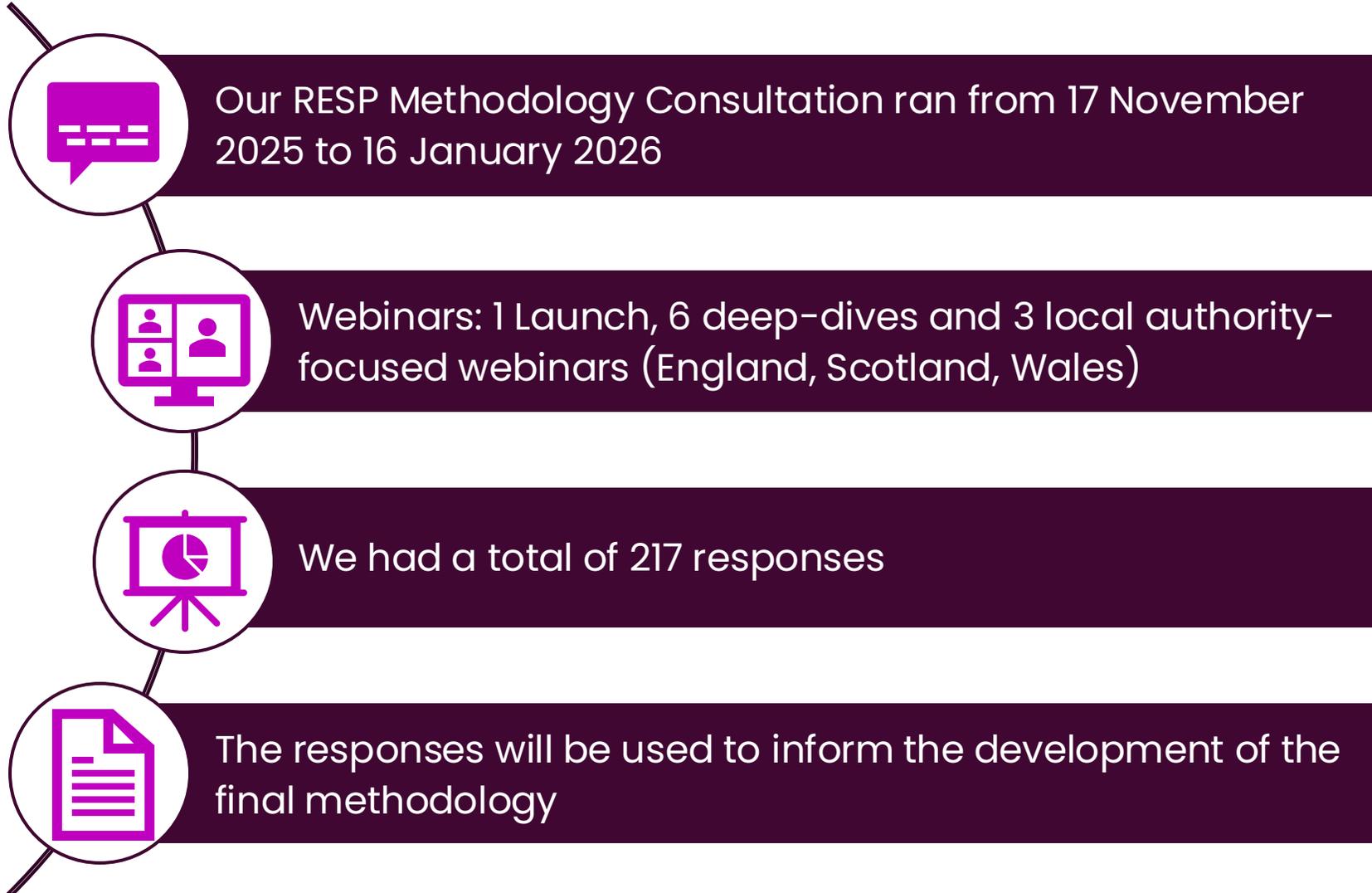


Key:

- SEP publications
- Quarterly Forums
- RESP Governance
- RESP Consultations

5.2 RESP Methodology Update

Methodology Update



Areas for further development

We are continuing to work on some areas of the methodology:



Network Planning Assurance for Gas



Whole System Optimisation



Spatial Context for Gas and Biomethane



Specification of Strategic Investment Need

Engagement Timeline



Late-Feb / early-March: Methodology updates published
Early-March: Online interactive workshops
Mid-March: Deadline for stakeholder responses (2-week window)

These activities will support the development of the final RESP Methodology, due in summer 2026.

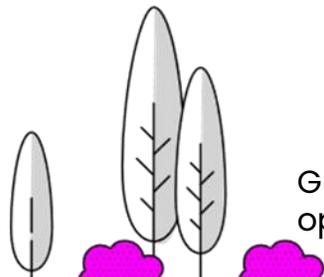
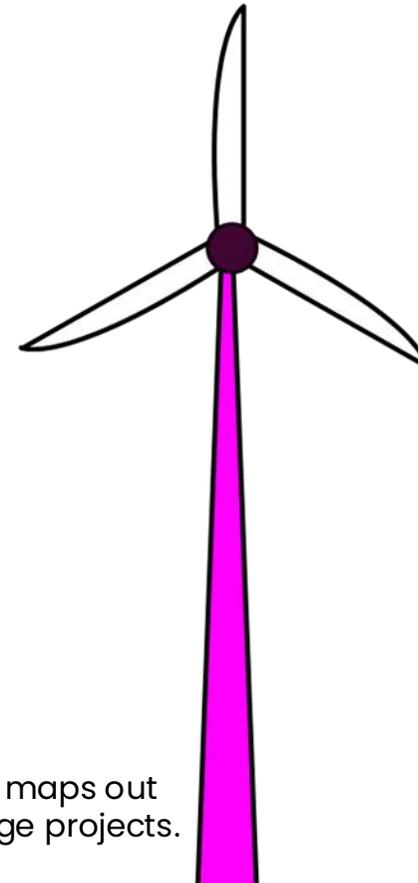
6. Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) Update

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)

The SSEP will accelerate **clean, affordable and secure energy** through greater certainty.

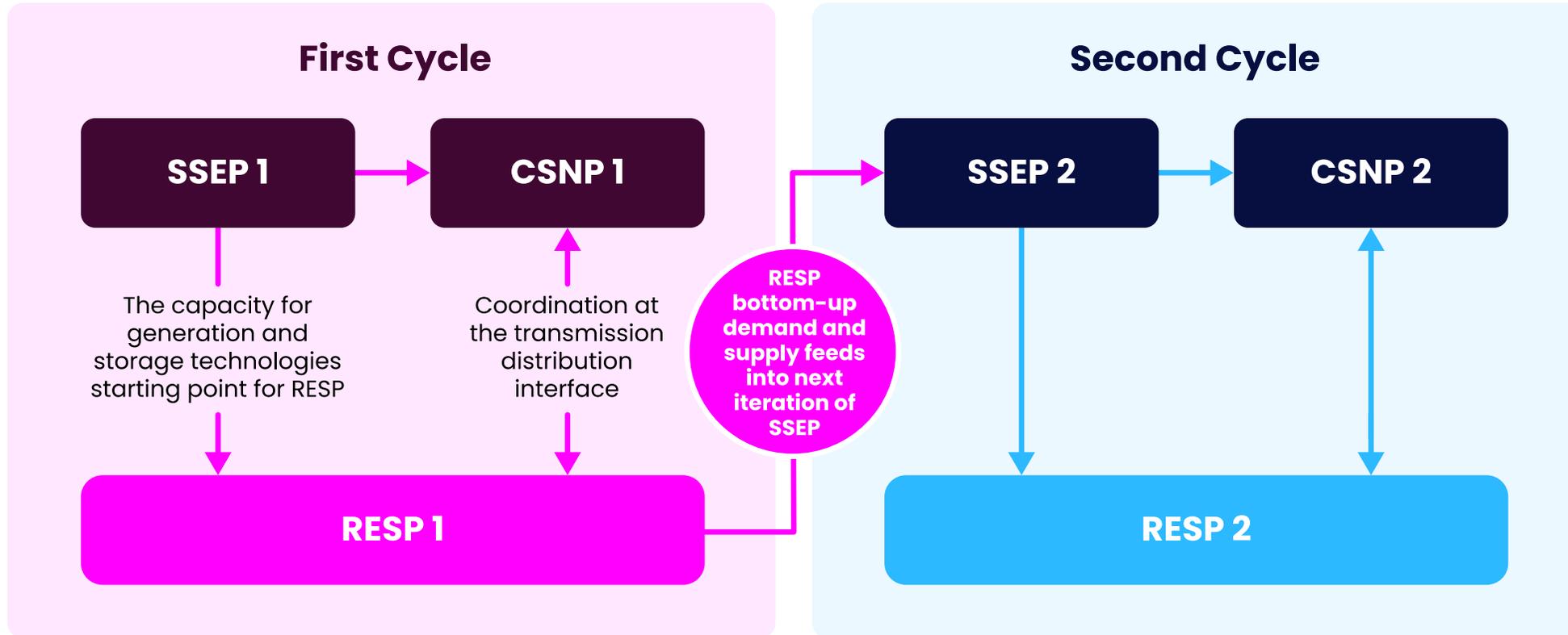
The plan will assess the **best locations for generation and storage of electricity and hydrogen** on a zonal basis.

This will provide **a government and Ofgem-endorsed plan** that firmly sets the context for the nation's energy requirement.



Glossary: **SSEP – Strategic Spatial Energy Plan.** A GB-wide plan that maps out optimal locations for electricity and hydrogen generation and storage projects.

Strategic energy planning interaction



Glossary: SSEP – Strategic Spatial Energy Plan.

Glossary: **CSNP – Centralised Strategic Network Plan.** A plan that maps demand and optimal locations for onshore and offshore transmission infrastructure.

Strategic energy planning timelines

With the release of new data from the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ), both NESO and DESNZ have decided to **re-run the SSEP modelling using this refreshed data.**

- **SSEP:** The final SSEP will now be delivered in Autumn 2027*.
- **CSNP & RESPs:** Delivery of the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) and RESPs are now planned to be by the end of 2028*.
- **tCSNP2 Refresh:** Following agreement with Ofgem, the refreshed second Transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan (tCSNP2) will be published by 30 June 2026, to incorporate the new connections delivery pipeline.

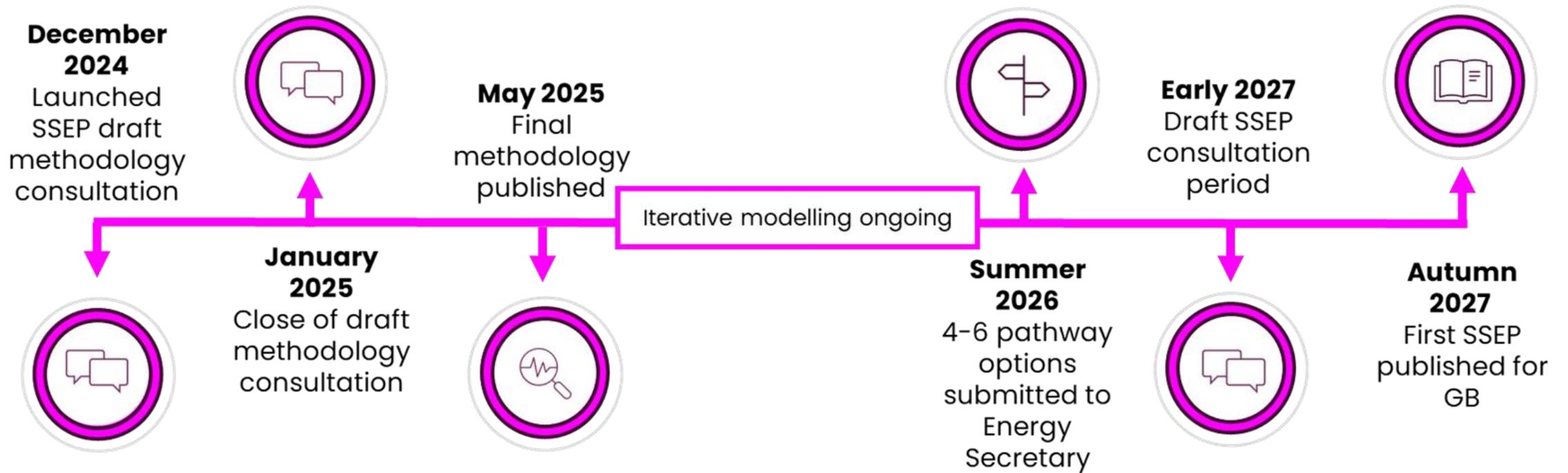
*Dates are dependent on the Secretary of State's decision on the SSEP pathway

Glossary: SSEP – Strategic Spatial Energy Plan.

Glossary: CSNP – Centralised Strategic Network Plan.

Glossary: **tCSNP2 Refresh – Transitional Centralised Strategic Network Plan.** A key part of the network development process that will enable the delivery of the government's offshore wind ambition.

SSEP key dates and milestones



7. Next Steps & In-Person Forums

RESP Timeline

Transitional RESP



Full RESP



In Person Forums: SEP in scope



- The next round of Forums will take place in June. These Forums will be in-person and last a full day.
- They will cover NESO's Strategic Energy Planning role more broadly, including how each of the strategic plans fit together.
- The day will feature plenary sessions and interactive breakout sessions.

Nation or region	Date
North East and Yorkshire	2 June
South East	3 June
West Midlands	4 June
Scotland	9 June
London	10 June
East Midlands	11 June
East	16 June
North West	17 June
Central England	18 June
South West	23 June
Wales	25 June

8. Q&A and Poll

Thank you for joining

Look out for future events



NESO newsletter sign up



RESP web pages



Contact the team