

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)

External Governance Quarterly Summary:

Q1 January – March 2026

In the first quarter of 2026, the SSEP programme made progress in refining and communicating its refreshed forward plan. Following the decision highlighted in the previous Q4 2025 summary, the updated SSEP timeline was reviewed, and shared with partners and across the external governance groups to reinforce transparency and maintain collaborative momentum.

Following a proposal from NESO, the SSEP Committee agreed to integrate low regret actions directly into each pathway rather than, as set out in the original commission, developing a standalone low regrets pathway. This approach ensures a more meaningful and insightful analytical process, aligning with the programme timelines and means that six pathways can be down-selected from the long list of pathways rather than just five.

Throughout this period, the analytical groups continued to build a shared understanding of the data, strategic spread, and the themes used in the development of the pathways.

Early economic modelling insights were presented, illustrating how projected technology capacities evolve between 2030 and 2050. The groups also explored the process of how geospatial analysis is integrated to balance the pathways and discussed how qualitative feedback can be applied consistently within the modelling process. In addition, members were introduced to the proposed methodology for the pathways down-selection and appraisal process.

Towards the end of the quarter the long list of possible pathways was presented and discussed before being down-selected by NESO to six draft pathways. These were shared with the SSEP Committee and analytical groups for feedback ahead of the appraisal process.

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) has continued its work to provide targeted guidance and specialist insight in support of these activities.

Written April 2026

