08 GAC Meeting Minutes

08 Gas Advisory Council

Date:	14/10/2026	Location:	Broadwick House, London
Start:	10:00	End:	16:00

Participants

Attendee	Attend/Regrets	Attendee	Attend/Regrets
GW	Attend	LB	Attend
RB	Attend	MS	Attend
UF	Attend	KG	Attend
ML	Attend	AAF	Attend
JO	Attend	IS	Attend
NW	Attend	OD	Attend
FD	Attend	AB	Attend
GF	Attend	BR	Regrets
RF	Attend	JG	Attend
MH	Attend	NC	Attend
MNi	Attend	PC	Attend
OL	Regrets	SLM	Attend
MN	Attend	KE	Attend
PD	Regrets	IW	Attend
AG	Attend	OM	Attend
TG	Attend	CG	Attend
VS	Attend	JC	Attend
JH	Attend		

Discussion and details

1. Opening Remarks

GAC Chair welcomed the group, ran through brief introductions and actions.

2. Ofgem Updates

Ofgem outlined the recently published call for input on gas system connections and access arrangements. The work is intended to establish how current arrangements are operating, where barriers exist and whether greater visibility or strategic alignment is needed.

The GAC highlighted the importance of clear roles and responsibilities, certainty for investors and involvement of different gas stakeholders.

Ofgem intends to publish a summary and proposed next steps following its review of responses.

3. DESNZ Updates

DESNZ provided an update on structural changes within the department and the Government's emerging direction for the energy sector.

DESNZ noted that work continues on gas security options. Members raised the difficulty of maintaining clear points of contact through recent departmental restructures. Work is also underway to improve coordination between the GAC and wider DESNZ teams.

3. NESO Headline Report

NESO talked through its GAC headline report.

The Council also discussed the recently proposed Gas Advisory Notes. NESO and the Chair confirmed that the notes will act as a formal mechanism for the Council to record and provide advice to NESO on matters discussed at a GAC meeting. Notes will not be required at every meeting and should be used selectively for issues where a formal Council view adds value.

A note may record a range of views where consensus is not reached. Notes are intended for advice to NESO, rather than DESNZ or Ofgem, and may be subject to Freedom of Information requirements.

NESO and the chair will formalise the Gas Advisory Note process in the updated Terms of Reference.

4. Gas Security of Supply Assessment

NESO provided an update on the second Gas Security of Supply Assessment. Members provided feedback and suggestions for further analysis in future publications of the report.

NESO intends to develop more dynamic and probabilistic modelling in future assessments, including further consideration of future climate-adjusted weather.

5. GAC Membership Update

NESO confirmed that expressions of interest for the second membership term had closed and were being reviewed. Individual conversations and onboarding will take place ahead of the refreshed term and updated Terms of Reference commencing in January 2027.

The proposed meeting format would give greater space to GAC-led strategic discussion, followed by policy, regulatory and NESO programme updates. Members supported a more discussion-led approach and provided feedback to better reflect collaborative engagement, which NESO will adopt moving forward.

6. EMAC Updates

NESO provided an update on the most recent EMAC session. This included an update on how NESO's wider councils and stakeholder groups work together, as well as coordination between advisory council chairs.

NESO also discussed the EMAC presentation of the Ten Year Outlook. Members highlighted difficulties in finding and interpreting the Ten Year Outlook data, and broader confusion over how the report is articulated, how regularly it will be produced and what it will be used for. NESO has taken an action to provide more detail on this point.

7. GMR Feedback & Projects

Members viewed the first Gas Market Roadmap as a useful baseline and noted positive feedback received through NESO's incentives reporting. The Council raised that the next roadmap should more clearly explain how NESO's work fits with DESNZ and Ofgem activity, including Ofgem's Strategic Direction Statement and future consultations.

8. Strategic Spatial Energy Plan

NESO confirmed that the SSEP Pathway Options Report, covering six pathways, had been submitted to the co-commissioners. The first SSEP focuses on the spatial requirements for electricity and hydrogen generation and storage; the wider gas network is not in scope.

Members discussed how hydrogen assumptions are incorporated before a full hydrogen strategy is available and whether future SSEP cycles could consider broader gas-system impacts.

The Council stressed the importance of transparency. NESO indicated that high-level information will be published for all pathways, with more detail expected for the preferred pathway, subject to ministerial decision-making and confidentiality constraints.

9. Investor Engagement

NESO introduced work exploring how policy, regulatory, market, revenue, technology and delivery risks influence risk premia and investment decisions across the energy transition.

The discussion with members highlighted the importance of clearly explaining NESO's role, engaging relevant networks and signposting to existing work by other organisations.

NESO has taken an action to arrange follow-up discussions with organisations to share more detail on the proposed work.

10.	**AOB** The GAC Chair demonstrated the Energy Data Explorer platform. Members welcomed tools that improve access to energy data and support comparison across publications. The platform has not yet been released and is in its testing phase. The Chair has taken an action to share a link for the platform with members for feedback