

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) External Governance Quarterly Summary: Q3 July 2026 – September 2026

This quarter, the SSEP programme completed the Pathway Options Report, setting out six potential pathways for meeting Great Britain's future energy needs. The submission of the report to the UK Energy Secretary marked the conclusion of a significant phase of pathway development, appraisal and stakeholder input. The UK Energy Secretary will consider the pathway options, with the Scottish and Welsh Governments and Ofgem providing formal advice.

External governance groups supported the quarter by:

- Providing advice and challenge as pathway development and appraisal were brought together for the final submission. This included outputs from sensitivity modelling and low regret actions modelling.
- Reviewing how stakeholder and working group feedback had been considered and reflected in programme outputs.
- Supporting assurance of the engagement process and the evidence used to develop the pathway options.
- Contributing cross-cutting perspectives from analytical, industry, environmental, land, marine and societal interests.
- Preparing for the next phase of the programme, including supporting the government's pathway decision and the future draft SSEP consultation.

The Expert Advisory Group continued to bring together reflections from stakeholder working groups and independent members. Its statement was incorporated into the Pathway Options Report submission, providing a formal record of the group's role in supporting development of the report.

Following approval by the SSEP Committee on a number of methodology amendments, a SSEP transparency update was published to assure stakeholders of the robustness of our modelling inputs and approach.

The next phase of the programme will focus on supporting the government decision process and preparing stakeholders for consultation on the draft SSEP.

Written October 2026

