

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) External Governance Quarterly Summary: Q2 April – June 2026

This quarter, the SSEP programme focused on appraisal of the draft pathways: an evidence-led assessment of pathway viability, risks and performance. This supported targeted updates to the draft pathways, helping to resolve risks, e.g., delivery risk, and improve robustness.

Two rounds of appraisal were completed, with feedback sought from advisory groups throughout. Assessments identified risks and recommendations, supported by evidence, technical expertise and levels of certainty. Actions were prioritised, focusing on major risks and critical remodelling changes, before pathways were refined and reassessed.

Key themes from this process included how to maintain future system operability and security of supply, network and infrastructure feasibility, spatial and technical constraints, and policy alignment.

The SSEP Committee and associated governance groups were consulted throughout the appraisal process, and their feedback was used to inform pathway refinements alongside wider stakeholder engagement. The groups also discussed the approach to determining pathway ranges, what sensitivities to explore and how to consider low-regret actions, which is the focus for the next phase of the programme.

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) has continued to play its role in offering focused guidance and expert views. With strengthened confidentiality arrangements now in place, NESO has been able to share some additional insights with the group.

EAG's reflections on the longlist of pathways have directly informed the appraise phase this quarter, helping to support thinking at a critical stage. In turn, NESO has provided a clear view of the evolving methodology and approach to pathway selection, alongside emerging insights as the work has progressed.

The EAG members have brought key themes and reflections from their respective Working Group discussions. This ongoing exchange has created a more collective understanding of the challenges and priorities occupying the forefront of members' thinking, ensuring that the work remains both relevant and forward-looking.

Written July 2026

