

# SSEN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Consultation

March 2024





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# PURPOSE

This document accompanies Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution draft Network Development Plan (NDP). Its purpose is to help stakeholders provide feedback on our draft NDP by providing an overview of consultation timescales and how you can respond.

As part of this consultation, we have published all relevant information used to prepare the NDP including the methodology, assumptions, and information relating to future flexibility services and expected reinforcement. The NDP is not a single document; rather, it is made up of three separate documents. These are published as drafts alongside this document and are as follows:

- a) Network Development Report (NDR)
- b) NDP Methodology
- c) Network Scenario Headroom Report (NSHR).

# BACKGROUND

The Clean Energy Package comprises European legislation (including EU Directive 2019/944)<sup>1</sup> to drive a unified energy strategy for delivering the Paris agreement. In December 2020, it was transposed into domestic legislation through a number of changes to the Electricity Distribution Licence. This included the introduction of standard licence condition (SLC) 25B. SLC 25B requires Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), including our two licensees Southern Electric Power Distribution plc (SEPD) and Scottish Hydro Electric Power Distribution plc (SHEPD), to publish a Network Development Plan (NDP), setting out their investment plans for the next five-to-ten-year period in relation to 11kV networks and above. It must include:

- a) A description of those parts of the DNO's network that are most suited to new connections and distribution of further quantities of electricity;
- b) A description of those parts of the DNO's network where reinforcement may be required to connect new capacity and new loads;
- c) Information that supports the secure and efficient operation, coordination, development and interoperability of the interconnected system; and
- d) Flexibility or Energy Efficiency Services that the DNO reasonably expects to need as an alternative to reinforcement.

To ensure consistency in reporting across all DNOs in terms of SLC 25B, the Energy Networks Association (ENA) prepared a report that sets out the agreed form of sharing data with stakeholders, customers, and consumers. The proposal for the Form of Statement of Network Development Plans was developed as part of Open Networks workstream, which proposed a standardised Standard Network Capacity Report. To meet the requirements of SLC 25B, the NDP is split into three distinct reports, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

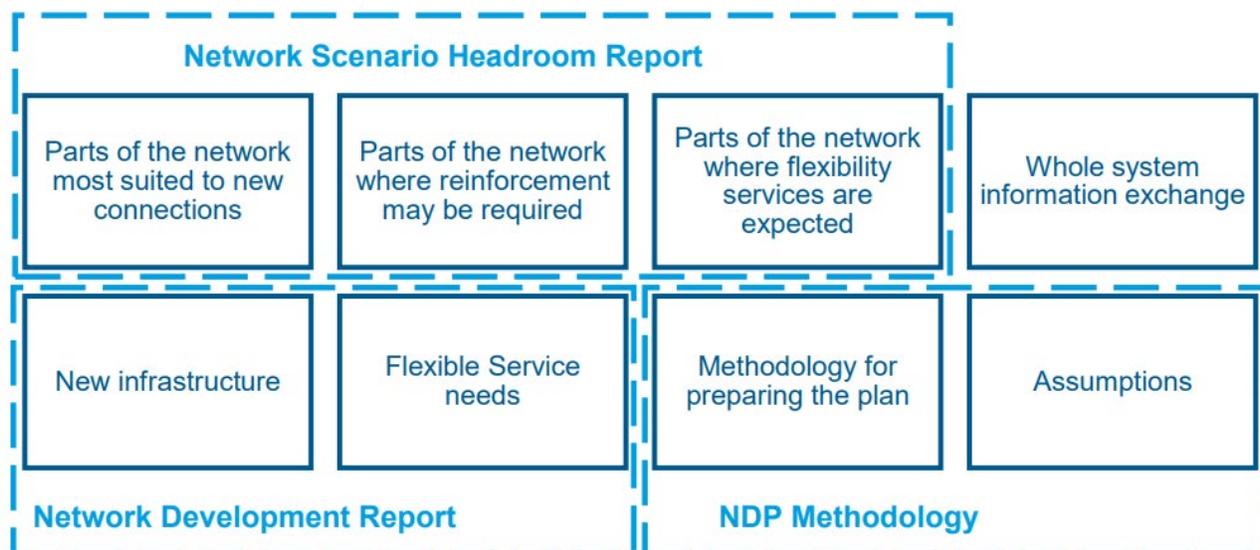


Figure 1 - NDP Reporting Structure

In compliance with SLC 25B, SSEN will update the full Network Development Plan every two years, publishing on the 1st of May. Due to the constantly changing nature of capacity headroom, SSEN will also update the Network Scenario Headroom Report on an annual basis, also publishing by the 1st of May.

## USE OF DRAFT NDP MATERIAL

Whilst the information and data in the draft NDP are indicative of our future proposals they are subject to further review and change. The final NDP will provide our most up to date forecast scenarios, investment requirements and headroom capacity. This will include NHR information across three seasons, i.e. Summer, Winter, and Spring/Autumn.

As such, the proposed flexible services and conventional reinforcements should be used for indicative purposes only at this consultation stage. The main purpose of the consultation is to demonstrate the type of data we propose to provide and how we propose to present it in the documents. We welcome your feedback in these areas.

## CONSULTATION PROGRAMME

We are consulting on the NDP until 25<sup>th</sup> April 2024. We will then review responses and publish our final NDP on or by 1 May 2024 in accordance with the conditions of our Electricity Distribution Licence.

We will be hosting a webinar on 10<sup>th</sup> April to provide further context and gain stakeholder views. We also welcome bilateral engagements with interested stakeholders during this period.



The consultation programme is as follows:

Date	Milestone
28 Mar 2024	Publication of SSEN NDP Consultation Documents and start of consultation period
10 Apr 2024	NDP webinar
25 Apr 2024	End of consultation period; stakeholder responses must be submitted by close of business
01 May 2024	Final NDP published with summary of consultation responses

## CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Your feedback is important to us, and we welcome all comments on this draft NDP to improve its content and useability. In particular we would invite responses to the following questions:

1. To help us understand how to help you, could you outline how you plan to use the information contained in this plan?
2. Does the Network Development Plan provide the information you need to understand our development plans for the network out to 2034? If not, what future improvements could be made?
3. Are the methodology and assumptions used to prepare this plan clear? If not, have you any feedback for future iterations?
4. Is the proposed format for the Network Headroom Report clear? Can you easily identify areas where there is capacity and where there are constraints?

## HOW TO RESPOND

We invite interested parties to provide feedback on the draft NDP by close of business on 25 April 2024. Responses should be made via e-mail to the following address: [whole.system.distribution@sse.com](mailto:whole.system.distribution@sse.com). Please state "NDP 2024 Consultation" in the subject title.

The above email address can also be used should you have any questions on the consultation document or associated process, or if you would prefer bilateral engagement with us on the NDP.

Please clearly mark any information that you would like us to treat as confidential when responding to this consultation.



# CONTACT

[whole.system.distribution@sse.com](mailto:whole.system.distribution@sse.com)  
[www.ssen.co.uk](http://www.ssen.co.uk)  
[twitter.com/ssencommunity](https://twitter.com/ssencommunity)  
[facebook.com/ssencommunity](https://facebook.com/ssencommunity)  
[linkedin.com/company/ssencommunity](https://linkedin.com/company/ssencommunity)



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