

December 2024

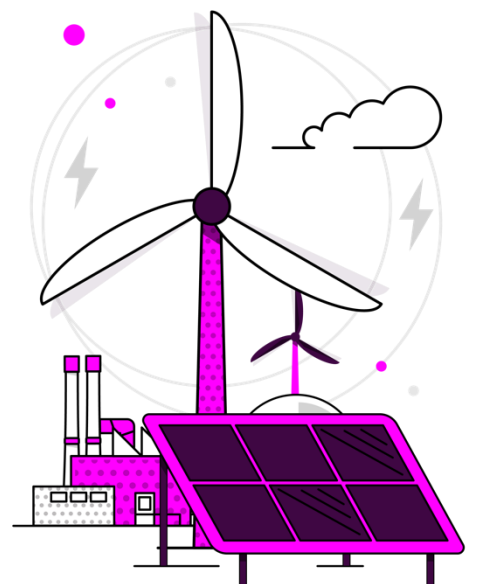
Strategic Energy Planning

Consultation Questions



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1. Introduction to the consultations





1. Introduction to the consultations

About Strategic Energy Planning

As NESO, our responsibilities around energy planning have expanded. We're taking a strategic approach that considers energy needs at national and regional levels, and across different types of energy such as electricity, gas and hydrogen.

To achieve this, our Strategic Energy Planning (SEP) team is developing a whole energy system approach that considers community and environmental interests, as well as safeguarding system resilience and minimising system cost.

SSEP, CSNP and tCSNP2 Refresh methodology consultations

To ensure our plans are robust and that stakeholders are given a voice from the start of these processes, we are consulting on a series of draft methodologies and outputs. We have launched three publications for consultation:

- the **Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) draft methodology**, which sets out the principles and method for delivering the SSEP
- the **Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) high level principles**, which will underpin the methodology for the CSNP
- the **transitional CSNP2 (tCSNP2) Refresh methodology**, which is a refreshed version of our interim network planning approach

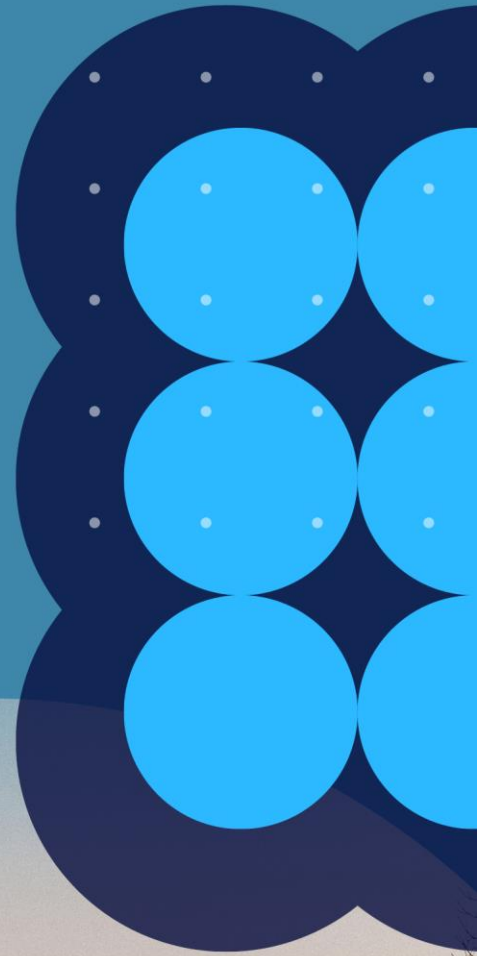
A supporting document explains how our SEP deliverables interact with each other and with wider NESO activities.

About this publication

The purpose of this publication is to summarise the consultation questions that appear in all three methodologies for ease of reference.

To respond to the questions, please use our [consultation form](#). The consultation closes at 11:59pm on 20 January 2025. If you have any questions about the publications or consultation process, please contact us at: box.sep-portfolio@nationalenergyso.com

2. SSEP consultation questions





2. SSEP consultation questions

Methodology

- Overall, does the methodology feel appropriate and cover the requirements for the SSEP?

Stakeholder engagement

- Do you agree with how we are engaging stakeholders and wider society throughout the development of the plan?

Environment

- Do you agree with our environmental approach, including how we have integrated SEA and HRA into the SSEP?

Other plans or policies

- Are there any other plans or policies we should consider that could potentially interact with the SSEP?

Economic modelling

- Do you agree with our economic modelling approach?

Data centres

- Out of the options A, B, and C, set out in section 3.4.5, which option do you feel is best for the SSEP?

Modelling external markets

- Do you have any views on how we should model external markets? Please provide any views in relation to section 3.4.11 and appendix 6.2.

Spatial evaluation

- Do you agree with our spatial evaluation approach?

Accessibility

- We continually look at ways to present information in a more accessible and engaging way. Is there anything we can do to make our future publications more accessible and interactive?

3. CSNP consultation questions





3. CSNP consultation questions

Our approach to stakeholder engagement

- Would you add any further stakeholder groups to the list on page 13 of the CSNP document?
- What can we do differently to make it easier for you to participate?

CSNP (electricity)

- Are you supportive of our proposal to shape the triggers around strategic parameters and introduce a staged change control process?

Integrating Offshore Exercise

- Are you supportive of our proposal to conduct an indicative offshore design exercise ahead of and further refined through the CSNP?
- Do you agree that identifying the parameters (listed on pages 34–35) within the CSNP would support the regulatory and development process for future interconnector expansion?
- Are these parameters suitable, or should any be removed or included?

System requirements

- What are your views on the proposed approach to system requirements?
- We would welcome responses that:
 - enable us to learn from or align to what other infrastructure providers are doing regarding climate risk
 - help identify credible extreme climate events and other high-impact, low-probability (HILP) events
 - discuss the governance process to agree on the credible HILP events that need to be considered in the CSNP

Options development

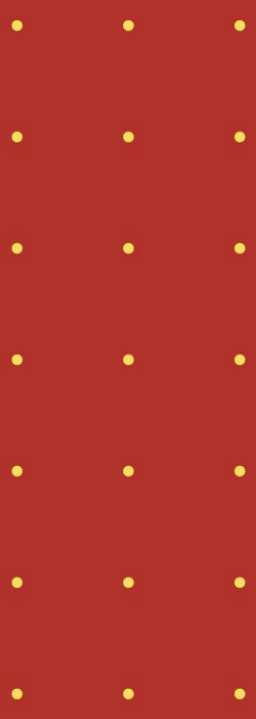
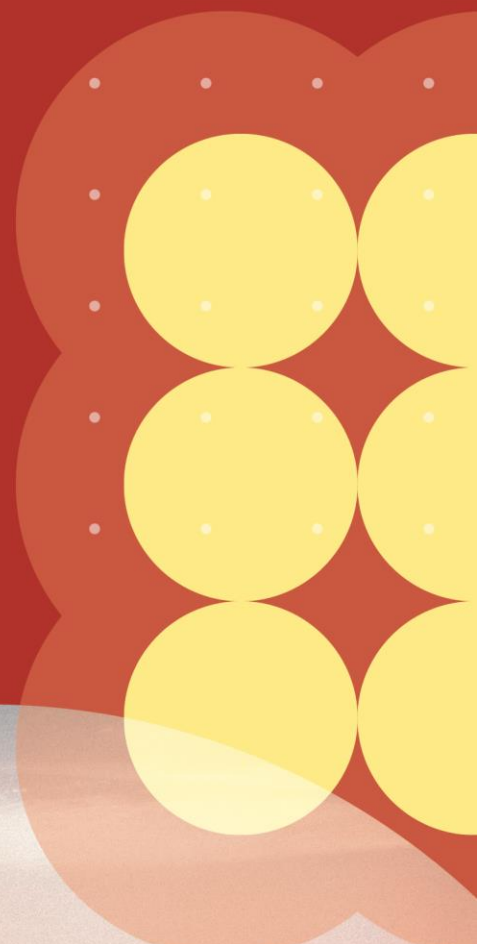
- Do you agree with the proposed high-level list of indicative design requirements (see pages 42–43)?
- Considering the identified challenges (listed on pages 44–46), what suggestions would you offer in addressing these and supporting third parties in proposing a broader range of options to meet long-term needs?
- How can NESO most effectively support the optioneering process through creation of independent options?



Assessment criteria

- How should we bring each of the different assessment criteria together to make the final recommendations?
- What are the alternative approaches to least-worst regret, credible sensitivities and stress testing that are suitable for the CSNP, that support high-investment requirements to achieve net zero, but also provide consumer value?
- What are your thoughts about considering broader societal costs and benefits in the CSNP economic assessment?
- What are your thoughts on NESO providing its perspective on optimal project delivery dates, including an economic analysis of the benefits of earlier delivery and the costs associated with delayed delivery?
- What are your thoughts on the use of benefit-cost ratio in the CSNP economics assessment?
- What are your thoughts on separating deliverability and operability into two separate criteria?
- What are your thoughts on the factors that we should cover under operability and deliverability criteria?
- Are there any additional themes that you would add to the environmental and community assessment criteria list on page 56?
- What are your thoughts on the proposed approach to environment and community?
- What are the merits and drawbacks of taking a qualitative and quantitative approach?

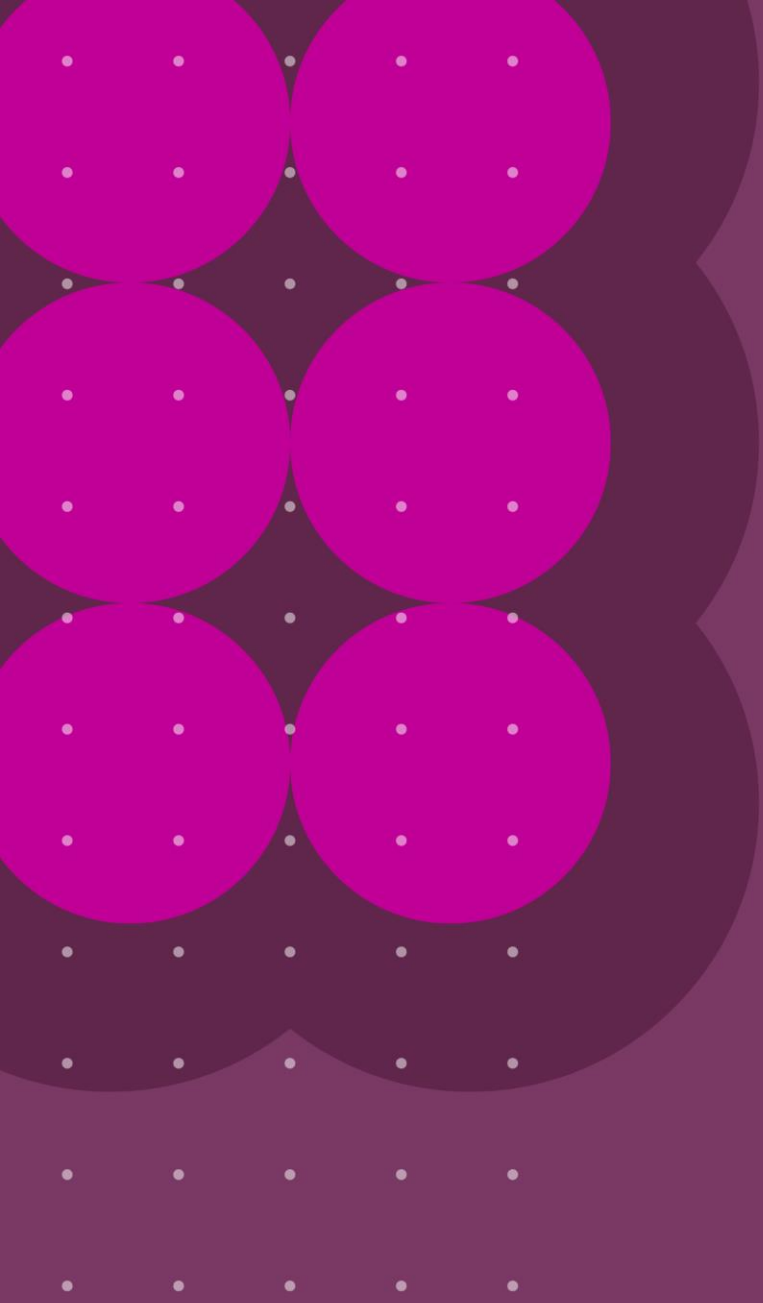
4. tCSNP2 Refresh methodology consultation questions





4. tCSNP2 Refresh methodology consultation questions

- We've created a summary methodology to improve readability and accessibility of this subject. Do you feel our tCSNP2 Refresh methodology publications are appropriately accessible?
- Do you feel that our proposal to produce a main tCSNP2 Refresh publication, detailed report and workbook is helpful?
- Is there anything you would change or include within our main publication or technical report? If so, what?
- How effective do you think our methodology is at identifying the optimal course of development of the national electricity transmission system?
- What score on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 1 meaning not effective at all, and 10 meaning highly effective) would you give for how effective the methodology is at identifying the right way to develop the national electricity transmission system?
- What general comments do you have on the tCSNP2 Refresh methodology?



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