Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) 2025 Webinars

DSO Whole System Team

30th April (SEPD) and 1st May (SHEPD)

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks | Powering our community

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Executive Summary

The Whole System team conducted two webinars, one for SEPD and one for SHEPD, on the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) data submission process for 2025. The new DFES data submission changes were presented to the stakeholders on the webinar and their feedback collected.

INTRODUCTION

SSEN's Whole System team hosted two webinars (one for SEPD, one for SHEPD) on the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) process for 2025, covering the background for agility in 2050 facing the preparation for ED3 and the changes in ways to ingest data by local authorities.
The planned objectives and outcomes follow:

Objectives:

- Provide ED3 overview and context
- DFES 2025 migration from scenarios to pathways
- Local authority data input for DFES, LCT demand technologies and ingestion methods
- Industrial demand data collection strategies and the opportunity to provide insights

Outcomes:

- Stakeholder support for the approach on DFES data submission in 2025
- Stakeholder agreement that the changes provide a better DFES forecast
- Stakeholder acceptance of the DFES data selection choices for submission in 2025
- Stakeholder feedback on their preferred ways to submit DFES data in 2025

Webinar

The DFES webinar agenda included the following:

- Introduction & welcome
- Transition to Pathways
- Gathering insights from Local Authorities
- Industrial demand forecasting
- Next steps
- Q&A and close

The slides for the events can be found here:
DFES 2025 slides SEPD (30th April).pptx
DFES 2025 slides SHEPD (1st May).pptx

Participants

The two events were attended by 29 participants from local authorities in SEPD and 17 in SHEPD, in addition to representatives from SSEN Distribution, NESO and REGEN.

SECTION 1: ED3 Overview and Context

Andy Wainwright presented the background and context to the webinar, including who SSEN are, what the DSO's role is and the structure and responsibilities of the Whole System team.

He explained that SSEN are building in 2025 the draft proposals for the next regulatory price control period, ED3, whilst expecting the transitional RESP and several other government policy decisions which add a level of uncertainty. Hence the need for a more agile approach to determining future demand needs in the distribution network, starting early with DFES data submission in 2025.

SECTION 2: The Transition to Pathways

Dom Bizabani reviewed NESO's migration from 'scenarios' to 'pathways' aiming to provide more clarity on the uptake of well-established technologies, whilst reflecting uncertainties in the decarbonisation journey and the implications for stakeholders. Dom proposed the holistic transition pathway for our investment decisions, emphasizing its balance of energy sources, high renewable integration, consumer participation, and grid flexibility. She requested feedback from stakeholders to ensure alignment with their ambitions.

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The following question was asked on Slido following Dom's presentation:

SEPD FEEDBACK

On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being not at all and 5 being strongly agree) how do you feel about this statement: "The holistic transition pathway accurately represents both ambitions and priorities"

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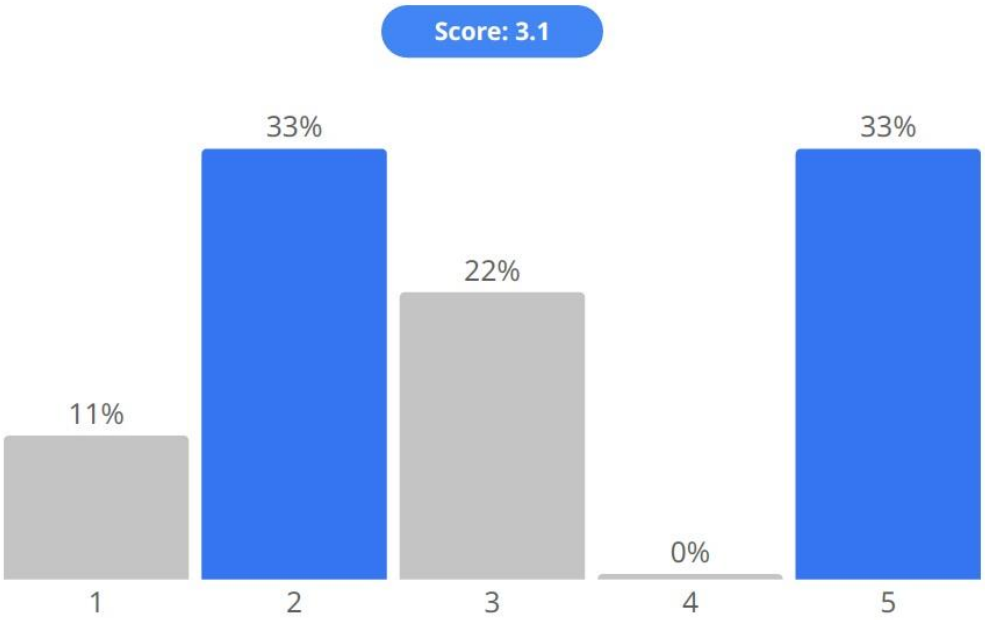
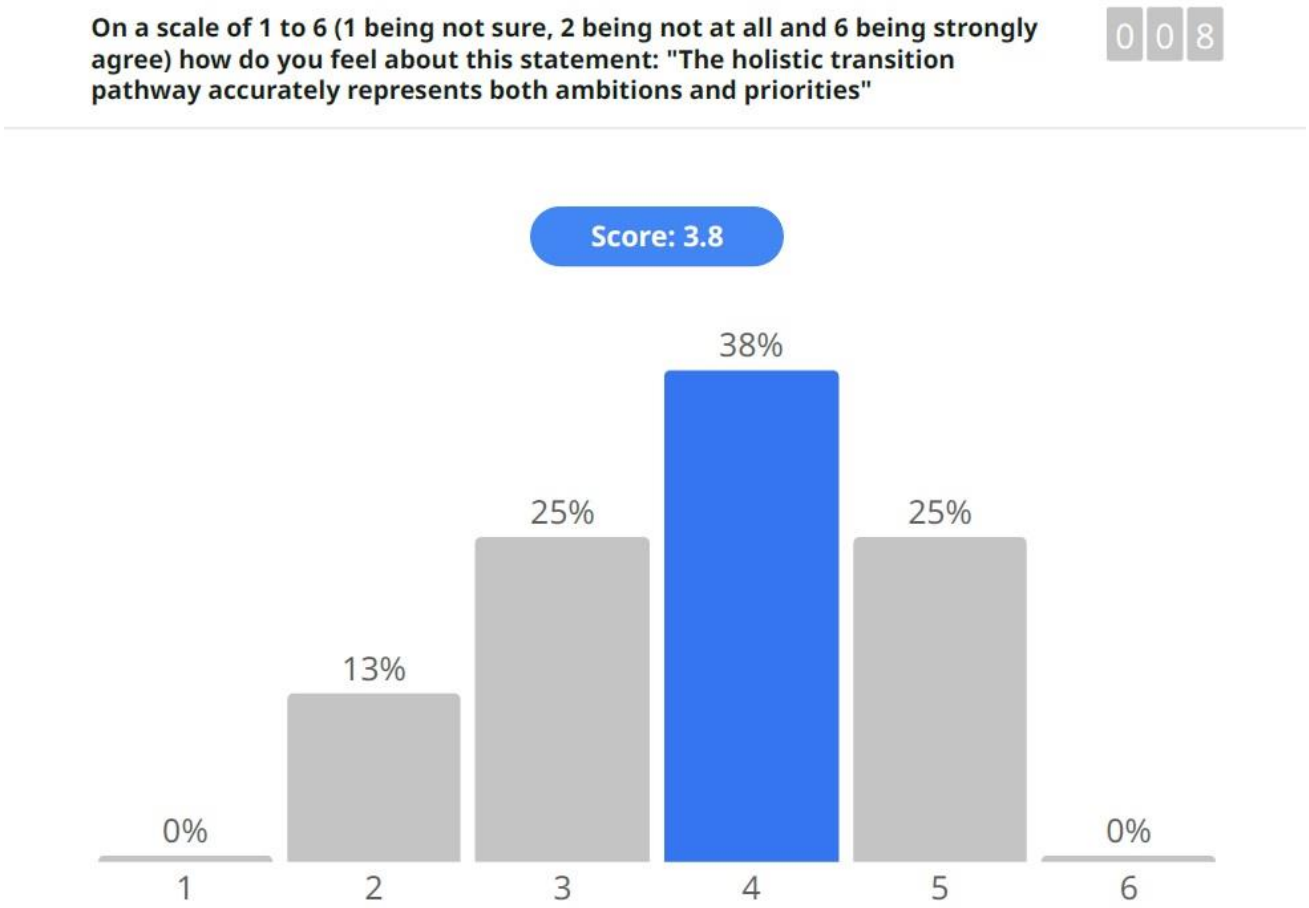


SHEPD FEEDBACK



SECTION 3: Gathering insights from Local Authorities

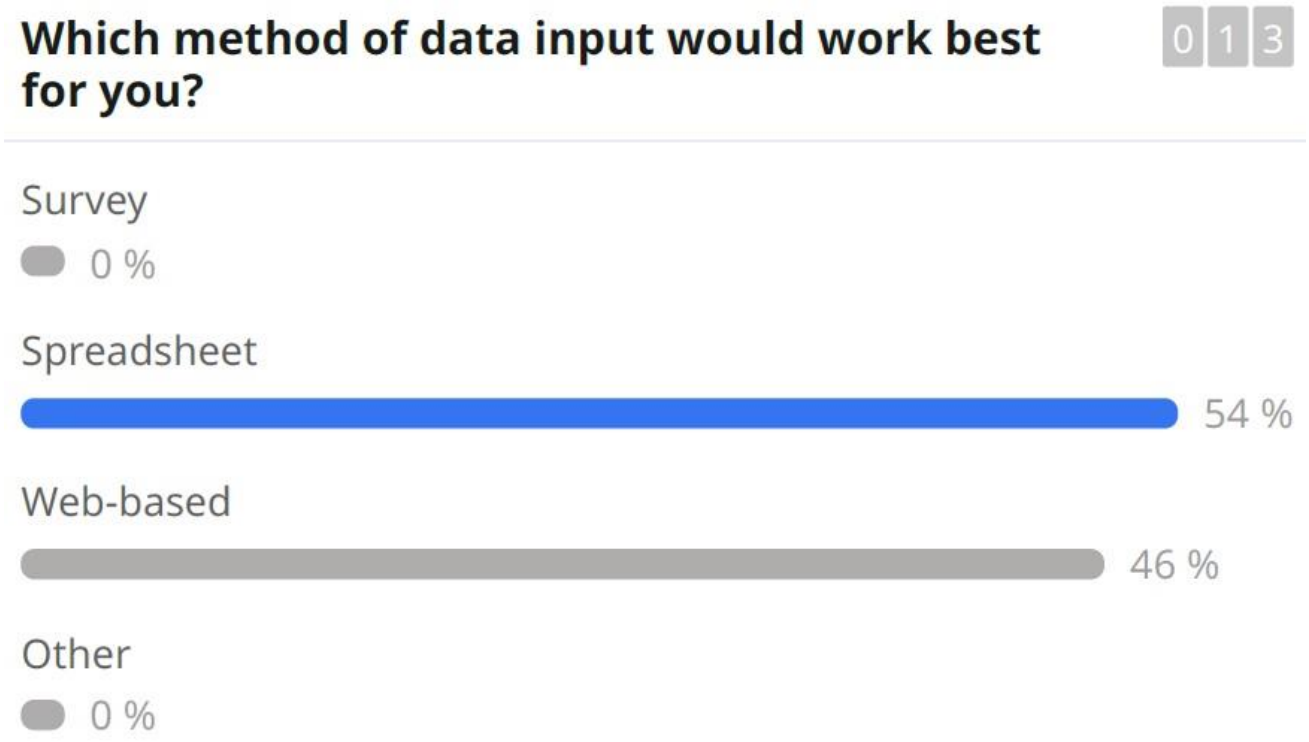
Ray Arrell from Regen discussed the integration of local authority data into the forecasting process, including new housing developments, strategic priorities and their relation to local area energy plans. Ray also highlighted the importance of updating this data regularly to deliver accurate projections that facilitate the appropriate level of network investment planning in the right areas at the right time.

Pedro Aspiazu from the SSEN Whole System team presented the options for DFES data selection and submission options for 2025, including an option for a pilot using LENZA. Pedro also emphasized the need for agile planning to accommodate the increasing demand for low carbon technologies, particularly EV chargers and heat pumps. He encouraged local authorities to provide timely and detailed information on future installations. Pedro introduced the new DFES visualization on the SSEN data portal, with the ability to filter by technologies and sub-technologies, and allowing the view of forecasts by: a) local authority, b) strategic development plan, c) primary substation.

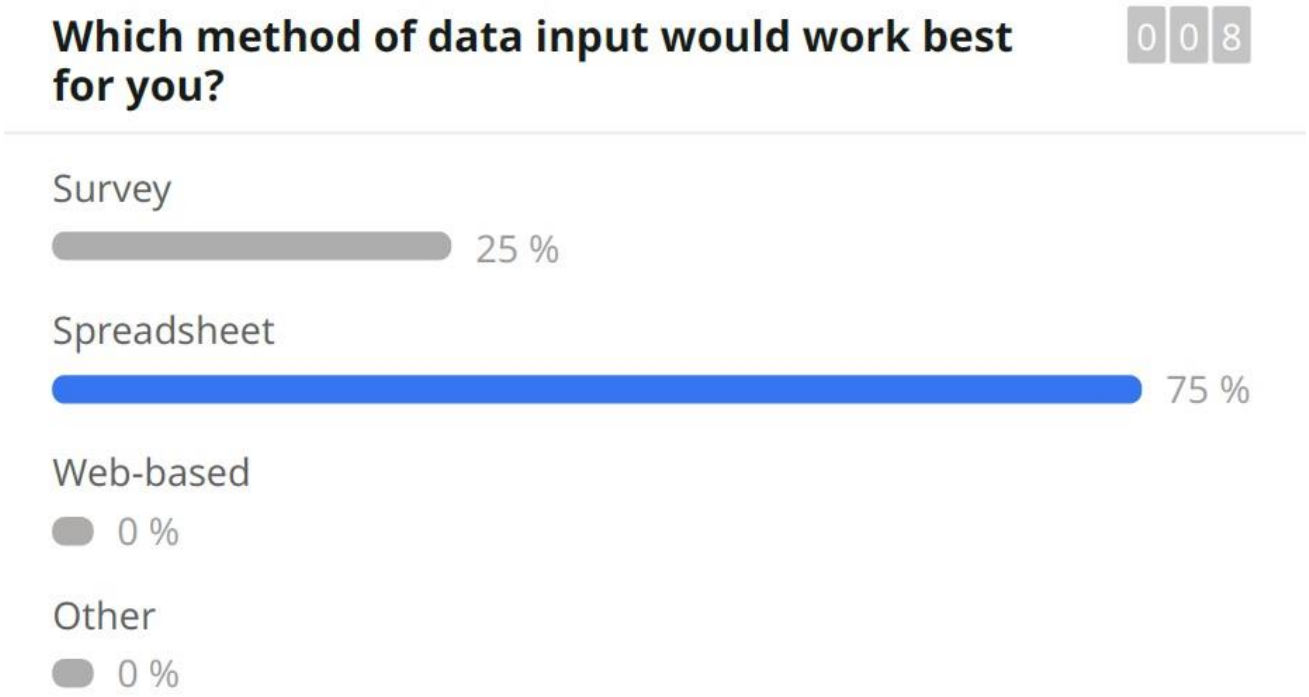
STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The following three questions were asked on Slido following Pedro's presentation:

SEPD FEEDBACK



SHEPD FEEDBACK



SEPD FEEDBACK

O a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all and 5 being fully support), to what extent do you support our choice of LCT data inputs?

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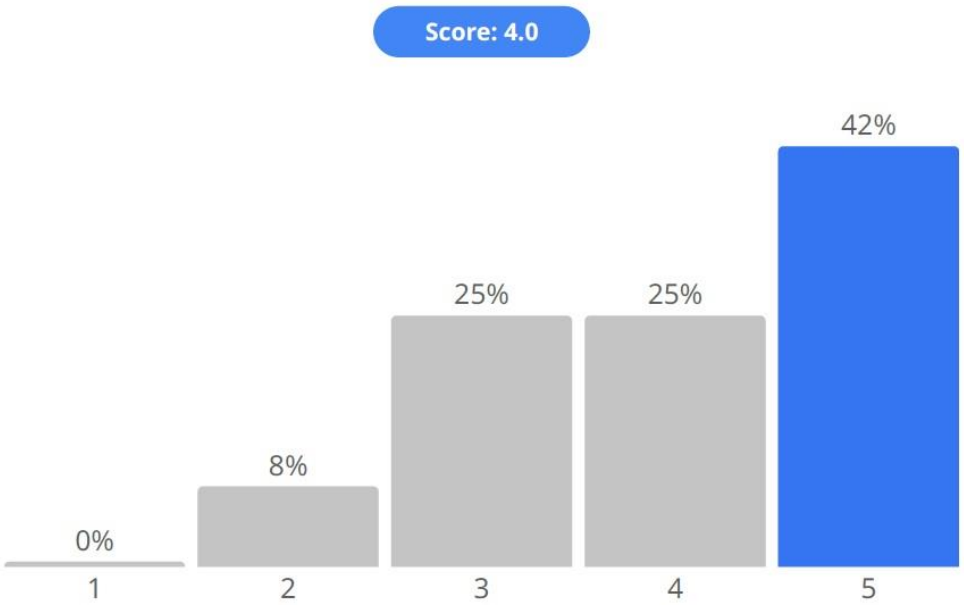

SHEPD FEEDBACK

O a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all and 5 being fully support), to what extent do you support our choice of LCT data inputs?

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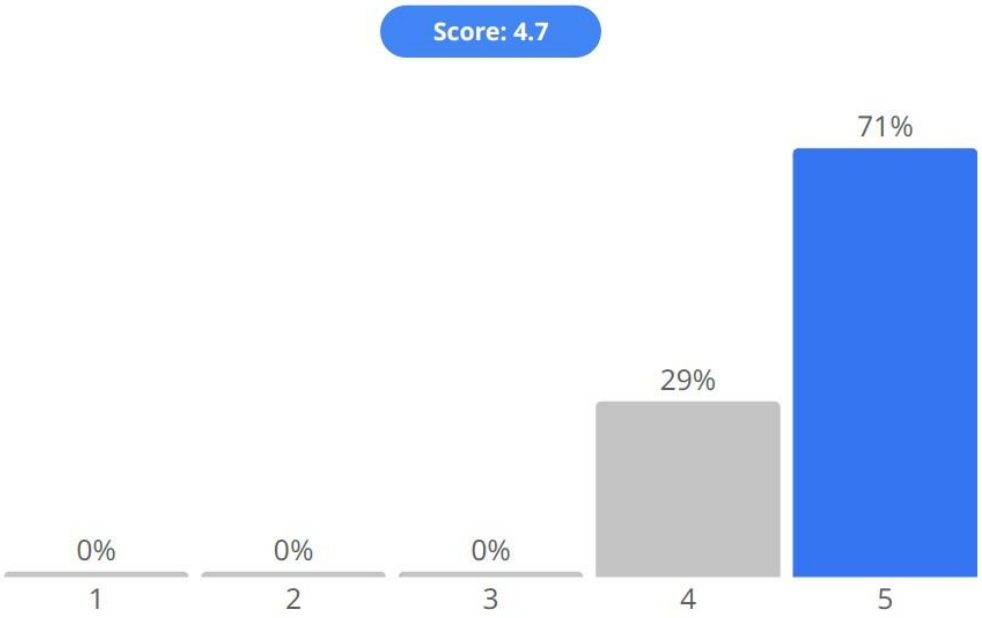
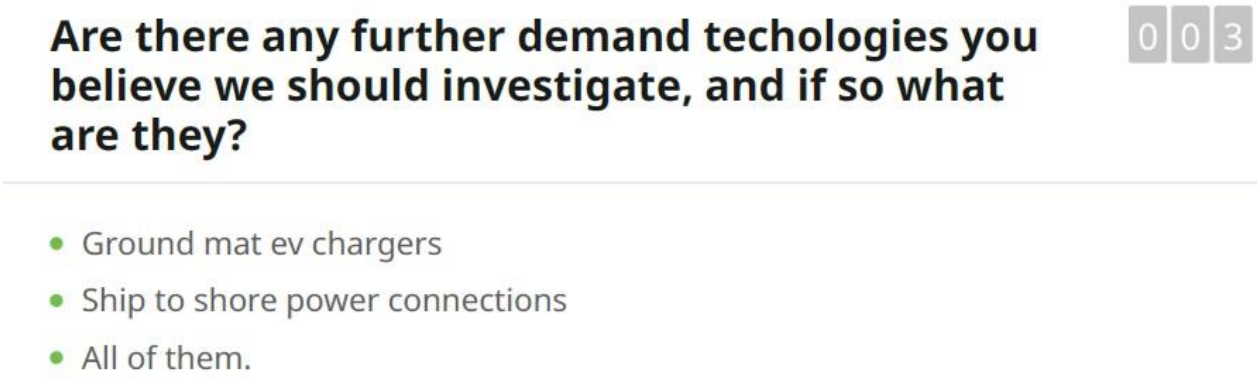


SEPD FEEDBACK



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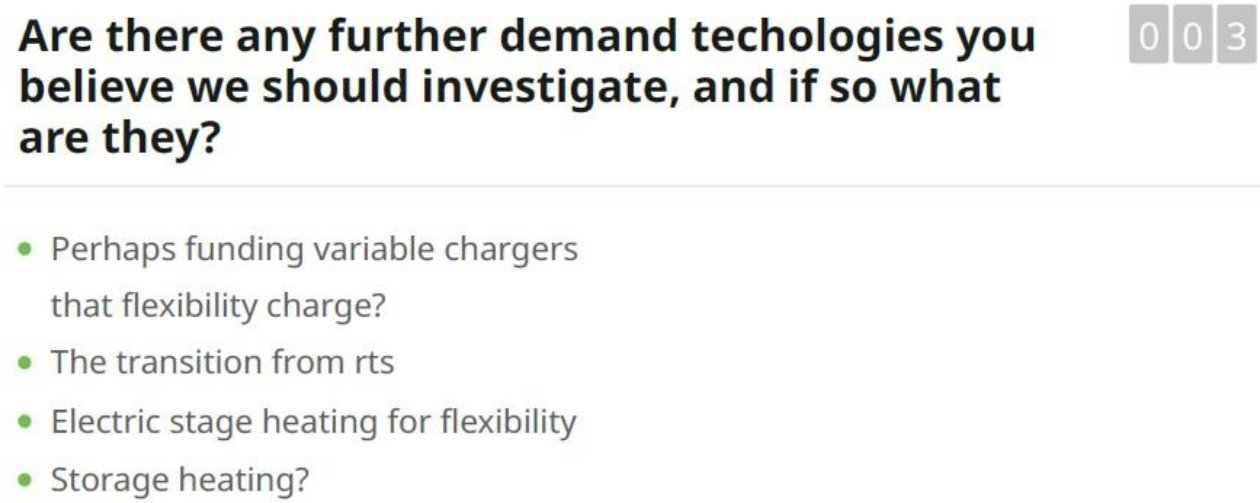

SECTION 4: Industrial demand forecasting

Rianne introduced how we are looking to obtain information on future demand for large industrial loads, not typically visible via the DFES process, by approaching stakeholders directly during our SDP process. She outlined the plan to capture insights by way of bilateral discussions and surveys, aiming to include these insights in our strategic development plans, with a classification of confidence levels for the data collected

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The following question was asked on Slido following Rianne's presentation:

SEPD FEEDBACK

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all and 5 being fully agree) how do you feel about the following statement "The proposed insights gathering process is clear and logical".

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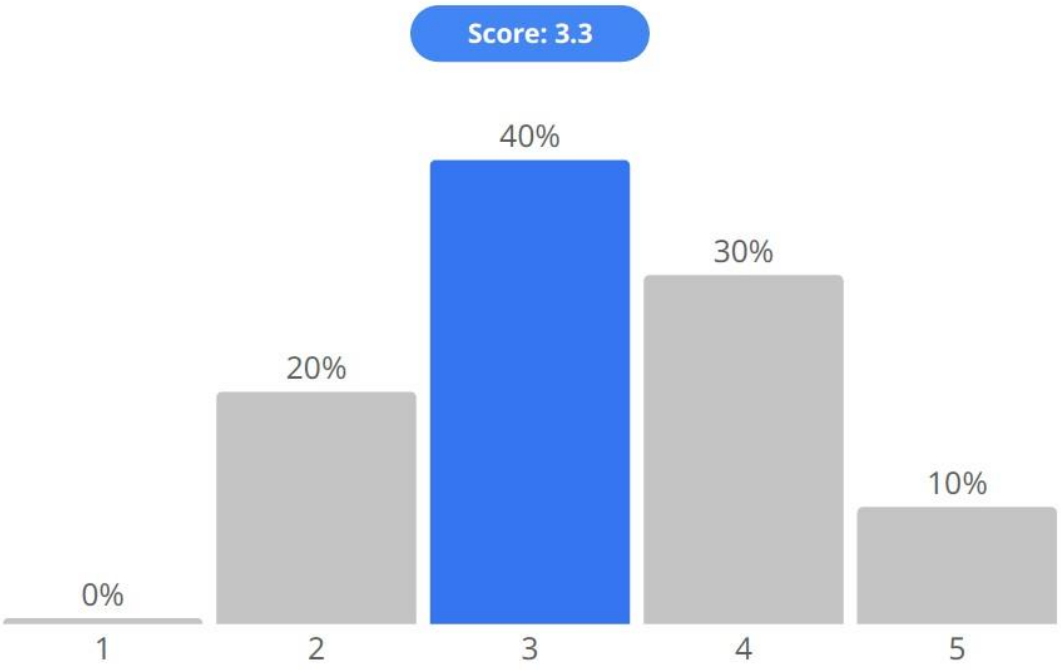

SHEPD FEEDBACK

On a scale of 1-5 (1 being not at all and 5 being fully agree) how do you feel about the following statement "The proposed insights gathering process is clear and logical".

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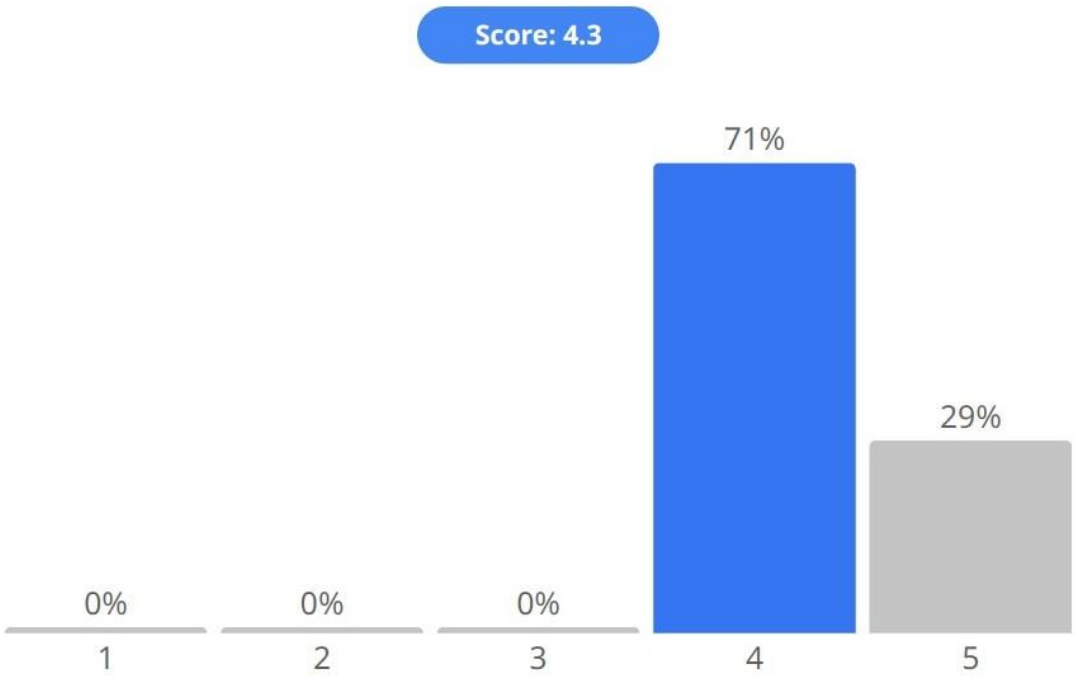

NEXT STEPS:

- Validation of preferred 2024 DFES pathway (survey 2-30 May)
- Local authority DFES insights (survey 12 May – 11 July)
- Industrial demand forecasts (on an SDP by SDP basis)

Q&A:

Rianne Cunningham facilitated the Q&A session, addressing questions from the chat and encouraging participants to provide feedback on the holistic transition pathway and other topics discussed. Outside of the chat questions there was one live question about the alignment of SSEN's approach with the Scottish Climate Intelligence Service and the impact of new substation charges on local projects.

Q&A from the chat:

SEPD:
Sarah Kerr:
Feedback now is that this is something that requires an internal discussion so we can respond on behalf of our organisations more formally.
County councils aren't listed. And I can't tag all districts to get a county view. Is this going to be updated on the tool please? Thanks
Rianne:
We have checked, and you can hold the ctrl button to select multiple authorities

Sarah Kerr:
What support and guidance will be available to participate in the pilot please? Thanks
Andy:
We will provide further details on this.
Sarah Kerr:
Thanks. We can't commit until we have this understanding

Jason Taylor:
Can you provide the web link to projections by LA please?
Southampton is keen to work on pilot with ssen for lenza & dfes
Thanks was interesting and useful

Mary Aladegbola:
helpful, a lot of information to digest but will be in touch as we have been gathering data for this purpose

SHEPD:
Yvonne D'Ambruoso:
For Scotland the Net Zero target is 2045. Do you plan to meet that in this region?
Andy:
Yes, and we are also considering local aspirations such as Scottish Islands where appropriate. We will also take a view out to 2050 though.
Ray:

Also, the pathway projections across the technology sectors within the DFES under Holistic Transition have been tailored to align with Scottish Energy Policy and targets.
This links to e.g. Onshore Wind Policy Statement, Heat Pump Adoption prioritisation, hydrogen action plan etc.

Yvonne D'Ambruoso:
As a local authority, with a lot of off gas grid areas, we are minded to look at areas to promote heat pump uptake however, recently heard of another authority who installed Air Source Heat Pumps at multiple schools where new sub stations were required to deal with the increased electrical demand. As a result of these new sub stations, the standing charges substantially increased, by over 17 times. Would this level of increase in standing charges be made clear before committing to going ahead with individual projects? Is there a way to avoid this?
Andy:
Hi Yvonne, we'll need to take your standing charge point offline to answer with Connections colleagues. The LENZA tool that Pedro has mentioned can help identify areas with spare capacity.

Nick Blyth:
Re LCT choices not sure that EV chargers are the best gauge. Would it not be better to take area wide assumptions of EV useage / adoption.
Ray:
Hi Nick - our approach to EV charger capacity analysis is rooted in both the market share of EVs themselves (across various different vehicle types), analysis around mileage driven and charger archetyping and efficiencies etc. that is all wrapped into EV charger capacoty pathways at a 11kV and LV level
Nick Blyth:
Thanks Ray - feels better to use the projected useage as the main driver - glad its included
LA's are also being expected to use and feed into the new Scottish Climate intelligence service. Its platform (Climate View has many assumptions on pathways. IT would be good if SSEN approach could align with SCIS and vice versa.. Otherwise we duplicate and may be inconsistent ?

APPENDIX 1: WEBINAR PARTICIPANTS

EVENT	DFES Webinar - SEPD	DFES Webinar - SHEPD
DATE	30th April 2025	1st May 2025
TIME	11:00 – 12:00	11:00 – 12:00
ATTENDEES	SSEN Distribution	
	NESO	SSEN Distribution
	REGEN	NESO
	Oxfordshire County Council	REGEN
	Low Carbon Hub	Angus
	Wiltshire	Orkney
	Reading	Aberdeenshire
	Southampton	Argyll and Bute
	NHS England	Dundee City Council
	Portland Town Council	Islay Energy Trust
	GS Capital	EMEC
	South and Vale	Scottish Government
	Portsmouth	Highland
	University of Portsmouth	GS Capital
	Buckinghamshire	Shetland
	SW Net Zero Hub	Stirling
	Isle of Wight	
	Chichester	
	Winchester	
	BCP	
	Bracknell Forrest	
	Basingstoke	
	NFDC	
	Voltalia	