



Strategic Development and Net Zero Planning:

SEPD Seminars

SSEN Distribution

11th and 24th February



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

Powering our
community

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Executive Summary

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution System Operations (DSO) conducted a series of seminars in Spring 2025 across its two licence areas, primarily aimed at engaging with Local Authorities (LAs) and other key local decision-makers around strategic energy planning. The seminars were delivered within the context of the evolving policy landscape and the new ways network operators are strategically planning. The purpose of the engagement was twofold: to provide a collaborative platform for stakeholders to share best practices, optimize opportunities, and overcome challenges, and to update stakeholders on SSEN's progress, seek feedback for further collaboration, and improve processes.

Two events were held in the Southern England (SEPD) licence area at Southampton and Reading, followed by an in-person seminar in Perth and a webinar for the North of Scotland (SHEPD) region. The events were aligned to ensure consistency, recognizing the unique differences between the SEPD and SHEPD licence areas. This report summarizes and reflects on the 2025 seminars held in the Southern England licence area, on 11 and 24 February in Southampton and Reading, respectively.

The seminars were delivered in collaboration with key partners following four themes: DSO Journey, Policy, Strategic Planning Delivery, and Strategic Plan Creation. Each theme consisted of presentations followed by breakout discussion sessions. All relevant local authorities in the Southern England licence area were invited, alongside NHS trusts, housing associations, universities, and energy industry partners.

The seminars highlighted several important aspects of strategic energy planning and engagement with local authorities. One of the main conclusions is the need to simplify the data collection process for local authorities by providing templates and upfront requests for information. Participants also discussed the integration of LENZA into the data collection process and the support required for its adoption. The timing and frequency of data submissions were deemed crucial, with a running cycle for uploads through LENZA being potentially useful, depending on the quality and format of the information required.

There are challenges with converting internal data from local authorities into the required format for the DFES, including issues with location data and the flexibility needed in accepting location information. LENZA promotes systems thinking at local authorities, with SSEN acting as an instigator and coordinator of discussions. Business groups are looking to galvanize data sharing and promote data input to forecasting processes, with a deadline for data submission seen as beneficial. However, consistent use and maintenance of plans in LENZA could become a significant task.

Aligning data inputs with delivery plans created by local authorities for climate strategies is important, as this would create tangible delivery projects that could be flagged in the DFES process.

The next steps involve continuing to deliver and refine the engagement programme, moving into year two of the LENZA programme, supporting DFES submissions through the digital tool, and providing ongoing training and support. There is also a focus on better coordination and consistency between LAEPs, enhancing the LENZA tool for better interaction, and supporting local plan development and net zero planning. The Whole System Team will continue to acquire feedback from stakeholders to ensure support and engagement is offered in the most valuable way to enable local ambition.

Overall, the seminars highlighted the importance of collaboration, communication, and strategic planning to achieve the goals of local energy planning and net zero initiatives. The feedback underscores the need for SSEN to continue engaging with stakeholders, providing support and training, and refining their processes to ensure effective and efficient energy planning and delivery.

INTRODUCTION

Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) Distribution System Operations (DSO) undertook a series of seminars across its two licence areas in Spring 2025, primarily aimed at engaging with Local Authorities (LAs) and other key local decision makers around strategic energy planning. The seminars were delivered within the context of the evolving policy landscape and the new ways network operators are strategically planning. As such, the purpose of the engagement was twofold:

- To provide a collaborative platform for stakeholders to share best practice, optimise opportunities and overcome challenges
- To update stakeholders on our progress, what this means for them, and seek feedback on how we can collaborate further and improve processes for the best results for everyone.

Two events were held in the Southern England (SEPD) licence area at Southampton and Reading, followed by an in-person seminar in Perth and a webinar for the North of Scotland (SHEPD) region. The events were aligned to ensure consistency, recognising the unique differences between our SEPD and SHEPD licence areas. There are some differences in delivered content, and as such, there will be a separate report for SHEPD. This report summarises and reflects on the 2025 seminars held in the Southern England licence area, on 11 and 24 February in Southampton and Reading, respectively.

The seminars were delivered in collaboration with key partners following four themes:

- DSO Journey
- Policy
- Strategic Planning Delivery
- Strategic Plan Creation

Each theme consisted of presentations followed by a breakout discussion session. At both Southampton and Reading, there were five tables of delegates, and each table had a discussion facilitator and scribe. This report will summarise those discussions.

All relevant local authorities in the Southern England licence area were invited, alongside NHS trusts, housing associations, universities and energy industry partners.

Following the feedback and learnings from these events, SSEN's Whole System team will continue to deliver and refine their engagement programme. This includes moving into year two of the LENZA programme as we support DFES submissions through the digital tool and continue to provide ongoing training and support. For further information, the team can be contacted at whole.system.distribution@sse.com.

Participants

Across both events, we welcomed 65 delegates representing 35 organisations (see table below). Of note is the greater number of NESO attendees at the Reading event meaning there was a NESO RESP representative per table which helped enrich conversations.

Southampton - 11th February	Reading - 24th February
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	BCP Council
BCP Council	Berkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Dorset Council	Bracknell Forest Council
East Hampshire District Council	Buckinghamshire Council
Eastleigh Borough Council	Chichester District Council
Hampshire County Council	Greater South East Net Zero Hub
Horsham District Council	NESO
NESO	Oxford City Council
New Forest District Council	Reading Borough Council
Oxford City Council	Regen
Portland Community Partnership	Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Portland Town Council	Rushmoor Borough Council
Portsmouth City Council	South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse District Councils
South West Net Zero Hub	Spelthorne Borough Council
Southampton City Council	Useful Projects
Surrey County Council	West Berkshire Council
Test Valley Borough Council	West London Business
University Hospitals Dorset	Wokingham Borough Council
West Sussex County Council	
Wiltshire Council	
Winchester City Council	

In terms of job titles/teams represented from the various local authorities these can be summarised as follows:

Climate/Sustainability Manager/Officer	RESP Team
Energy Manager/Officer	Planning Policy Officer/Manager
CEO	Head of Climate/Energy Services
Head of Policy, Inclusion & Climate	Estates Director
Strategic Transport Planner	Strategy - Sustainable Growth
Councillor	Transport - EV-charging Lead
Carbon Reduction Manager	Energy Systems Lead

SESSION 1: DSO Journey

Session One was designed to play back to stakeholders the work we as a DSO have done over the last year, inform stakeholders of our plans going forward and the importance of their input into the Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES), and to invite feedback to shape our engagement and support. The presentations were as follows:

- The Whole System Journey, *Michael Baker (SSEN) and Pedro Aspiazu (SSEN)*

Michael gave an overview of the Whole System Team's strategic planning process and Pedro played back the work we've done over the last year based on feedback and our plans going forward.

- The Role of Local Authorities in DFES, *Christine Chapter (Regen)*¹

Christine explained the DFES process and how local authority insights feed into the methodology and provided highlights of the recently published DFES 2024.

- Forecasting Future Needs, how your data helps us forecast future requirements, *Andy Wainwright (SSEN)*

Andy took delegates through how SSEN use the DFES in its strategic planning and when DFES 2024 will be incorporated into our publications.

The breakout session posed the following question to delegates to discuss:

How can we make our data collection process easier and more convenient for you?

- *How do you see LENZA fitting into this process?*
- *How soon could you move to using LENZA for DFES submissions and what support would you require?*
- *Can you share your thoughts on how often and when we should ask for data to make it as convenient as possible?*
- *Is there a specific time period or format that works best for you?*

We also posed three Slido questions to delegates during the presentations:

- *On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is low, 5 is high), how well do you think that SSEN's Whole System Team are listening to and acting your feedback?*
- *What impact have we made on your work over the last year?*
- *Going forward, what further opportunities are there for us to collaborate?*

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The key points raised by delegates during the breakout session include:

¹ The Regen presentation was only at the Reading seminar

Data Collection Process: There is a need to make the data collection process easier and more convenient for local authorities. This includes providing templates and requests for information upfront to facilitate the process.

LENZA Integration: Participants considered how LENZA can fit into the data collection process and the support required for its adoption.

Data Submission: The timing and frequency of data submissions are important. A running cycle for uploads through LENZA could be useful, but it depends on the quality and format of the information required.

Internal Data Challenges: There are challenges with making internal data from local authorities into the required format for collection in the DFES. This includes issues with location data and the flexibility needed in accepting location information.

Systems Thinking: LENZA promotes systems thinking at local authorities, with SSEN as an instigator and coordinator of discussions.

Data Sharing and Forecasting: Business groups are looking to galvanize data sharing and promote data input to forecasting processes. A deadline for data submission is seen as beneficial, but consistent use and maintenance of plans in LENZA could become a significant task.

Alignment with Delivery Plans: Aligning data inputs with delivery plans created by local authorities for climate strategies is important. This would create tangible delivery projects that could be flagged in the DFES process.

The summary results of the Slido questions are as follows (full text is in Appendix Two):

- *On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 is low, 5 is high), how well do you think that SSEN's Whole System Team are listening to and acting your feedback?*

Average score of 3.6 across both events.

- *What impact have we made on your work over the last year?*

Monthly engagement meetings for LEVI have been beneficial in understanding SSEN processes and there is a desire for more support to get Berks wide LENZA operational.
There has been support in grid constraint discussions with major energy users and participation in DFES data collection workshops.
The engagement has improved understanding of network/outcome interactions, connected stakeholders, and facilitated consultations.
Progress has been made on high priority GSP SDPs and there is a better understanding of distribution networks.
The LENZA tool has been particularly useful for local energy planning and strategic planning for EV charging infrastructure.
The team has been integral in instigating discussions within councils about energy planning and has provided significant support for LAEPs.
There has been increased transparency and engagement, leading to better collaboration with West London partners and a greater ability to engage with SSEN.

The feedback also mentions the provision of helpful data and spatial tools, quicker replies to queries, and better access to datasets.

- *Going forward, what further opportunities are there for us to collaborate?*

The feedback focused on several key areas for improvement and collaboration. These include aligning strategic development plans (SDPs) and distribution network operator assessments (DNOA) with business plans and local area energy plans (LAEPs), increasing awareness among local stakeholders, and collaborating with high energy users within district councils. There is also a strong emphasis on developing initiatives that unlock strategic investments, communicating the importance of local energy planning, and supporting flexibility projects and heat network planning.

Additionally, the feedback highlights the need for better coordination and consistency between LAEPs, enhancements to the LENZA tool for better interaction, and support for local plan development and net zero planning. There are also suggestions for engaging with residents, improving local engagement, and developing tools to support net zero policies.

Overall, the feedback underscores the importance of collaboration, communication, and strategic planning to achieve the goals of local energy planning and net zero initiatives.

SESSION 2: Policy

Session Two was designed to explore the landscape in which we're sitting with Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs) emerging, Clean Power 2030 and what this means for local decision making. The presentations were as follows:

- NESO Update on Strategic Energy Planning, *Kieran Highman (NESO)* and *Rhiannon Calado (NESO)*

Kieran and Rhiannon took delegates through an overview of the newly created National Energy System Operator (NESO) and the strategic planning overview. This included RESP outputs and the milestones for them.

- Moving From ED2 to ED3, *Patrick Erwin (SSEN)* and *Clothilde Cantegreil (SSEN)*

Patrick and Clothilde outlined the RIIO (Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs) framework, the current ED2 strategy as part of that framework, and the work underway to prepare for our ED3 business plan submission, highlighting a focus on economic growth.

The breakout session posed the following question to delegates to discuss:

What considerations are there to ensure effective alignment between:

- *LAEPs and energy industry plans?*
- *LAEPs and other place-based initiatives such as local plans and strategic transport planning?*

To ensure a cohesive approach to achieving net zero targets and delivery of statutory duties?

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The key points raised by delegates during the breakout session include:

Alignment and Integration: It was acknowledged that there is a need to ensure that LAEPs are effectively aligned with energy industry plans to create a cohesive approach to achieving net zero targets and that they should be integrated with other place-based initiatives to ensure a comprehensive approach. Some local authorities have faced challenges in integrating LAEPs with local plans, and there is a need to develop processes that ensure full alignment.

Enduring RESP Methodology: The enduring RESP methodology and tRESP (transitional RESP) are currently considering alignment that's required. It is important to ensure that RESP adds value rather than replacing existing processes and duplicating workload on both local authority and network sides.

Stakeholder Communication: Effective communication of the regulatory picture to stakeholders is crucial, as there have been challenges in explaining issues and having conversations across different types of geography.

Ambition: Local plans often start with ambitious net zero goals but may get watered down during examination, making them less representative of the net zero agenda. RESP lends legitimacy to the ambitions around net zero targets and provides a consistent approach to evaluate these ambitions at both local and nationwide levels.

Coordination and Buy-In: Coordinating across local authorities and scaling up to larger geographies introduces potential challenges with aligning to other plans and energy/network plans. Local authorities are often departmentalized, making it difficult to see where energy planning fits, and there is no single entity responsible for the different place-based plans. It was felt that political buy-in is more important for energy development than just data.

Development Process: The development process for local plans can take five to ten years, while energy planning seems to be moving faster. Strategic Development Plans (SDPs) could serve as an evidence base at the examination stage for local plans.

SESSION 3: Strategic Planning Delivery

Session Three was designed to look at LAEP delivery models and securing investment for LAEP delivery. The presentations were as follows:

- Place Based Financing, *Tom Elliot (Energy Systems Catapult)*²

Tom gave an overview of the partnership between ESC and Phoenix Group to create a series of tools designed to support local stakeholders in developing investable portfolios.

- LAEP Into Action, *Kirsten Firth (Greater South East Net Zero Hub)*³

Kirsten presented on the challenges and actions that can be taken to address the LAEP delivery gap, ensuring that governance, structures, stakeholders and partnerships are in the right place to enable successful implementation.

The breakout session posed the following question to delegates to discuss:

How do you foresee the impact of devolution and local government reorganisation on achieving net zero and strategy energy delivery? What specific challenges and opportunities do you anticipate in this transition, particularly in terms of policy alignment, funding, and stakeholder collaboration?

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

One of the primary concerns was the uncertainty surrounding the future of district councils and the variation between councils in their approach to becoming combined authorities. This uncertainty is compounded by the unclear role of RESP in the energy transition and the timescales for devolution, which are expected to take 2-3 years. Energy coordination will move to the combined authority level, requiring significant resources. Additionally, there is a risk that progress may stall during the transition period, and smaller authorities may face inconsistency and lack of resources due to 'double devolution'.

Despite these challenges, there are several opportunities presented by devolution and local government reorganization. The potential for authority to be transferred to a local mayor could enhance power demand planning for larger areas. Having a single point of contact could release capacity to existing units, and combining expertise from different councils could bring more specialists into the team. Furthermore, the benefits of these changes include easier navigation, improved communication, and improved options for investors as the areas to look at become larger.

However, there are also significant challenges that need to be addressed. There is concern about the uncertainty during the interim period of local government reorganization, the risk to project delivery, and the need to realign existing strategies and targets with the new organizational structure. The possibility of less granular data if projects transfer from city and district councils to county councils is another concern.

² Pre-recorded presentation

³ The South East Net Zero Hub presentation was only at the Reading seminar

Additionally, the effectiveness of higher LAEPs and the prominence of mayoral authorities in the southeast were discussed. There is hope that energy planning will become business as usual and stop being political, but there may be a need to redo LAEPs after devolution.

In conclusion, while devolution and local government reorganization present several challenges, they also offer significant opportunities for enhancing strategic energy delivery and achieving net zero. Addressing policy and strategy gaps, ensuring effective coordination and resourcing, and promoting grassroots projects are crucial for supporting strategic planning delivery.

SESSION 4: Strategic Plan Creation

Session Four included case studies exploring best practice and problem solving to unlock barriers and identify and make the most of opportunities in LAEP development. The presentations were as follows:

- Getting Buy-In For a LAEP, *Carl Warom (Dorset Council)*⁴

Carl presented on the process undertaken at Dorset Council to acquire the buy-in from and upskill members and officers to be better informed about local area energy planning. Subsequently, Carl provided the toolkit which has been shared with delegates.

- Winchester District Local Area Energy Planning, *Alex Eburne (Winchester City Council)*⁵

Alex took delegates through the context within which a local area energy plan is being developed across Winchester. This included how they've been using LENZA and intend to use it going forward and identifying the opportunities and challenges of the journey.

- LAEP Development, *Gail Scholes (BCP Council)*⁶

Gail discussed the overarching process undertaken by BCP Council to develop their LAEP and the key challenges faced. She then discussed the next stage of how they're planning to mobilise the LAEP to implementation.

- Oxfordshire LAEP & Zero Carbon Oxfordshire Partnership, *Alice Jones (Oxford City Council)*, and *Samantha Morgan-Price (Oxford City Council)*.⁷

Alice laid out the governance and programme for the OxLAEP and its ambitions of embedding a long-term LAEP function within local authorities and delivering an investable project pipeline. Sam provided an overview of how ZCOP was established and how they've collectively developed a roadmap and action plan, and how both ZCOP and OxLAEP feed into SSEN's DFES process.

The breakout session posed the following question to delegates to discuss:

What are the main challenges and opportunities when working with external partners like the NHS, universities, and businesses in creating LAEPs?

- *Can you share any examples where you have worked together on local planning?*
- *How can we better use existing toolkits and resources to overcome these challenges?*
- *Are there any gaps that can be filled to make LAEP delivery easier for you?*

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

⁴ Southampton seminar only

⁵ Southampton seminar only

⁶ Reading seminar only

⁷ Reading seminar only

In terms of collaborations, examples included:

- The collaboration with Oxford Brookes University, which led research and planning for Oxford City Council. This partnership enabled effective local planning and demonstrated the value of involving academic institutions in the process.
- The use of procurement open days to encourage collaboration with local partners. These events provided a platform for stakeholders to engage and discuss their roles in local planning.
- Positive interaction with NHS, universities, and schools, which often have in-house sustainability teams. These public bodies, despite sometimes lacking resources, seek support from councils to enhance their local planning efforts.
- The role of business groups in bringing a broad view of the private sector to the table. These groups are relied upon by their local authority partners to collate and galvanize interest from key private sector stakeholders, making them more likely to come forward and engage in local planning.

The importance of better utilizing existing toolkits and resources to overcome challenges in LAEP delivery. Identifying gaps that can be filled to make LAEP delivery easier was also emphasized.

It was noted that there is an increasing awareness and prioritization of energy issues among commercial entities. The NHS was also noted to have clear objectives at the national level but seemed spread thin at the local level. Universities often have high ambition, but this can vary significantly.

One challenge raised was that the engagement with businesses in some areas has been low, with time constraints being a significant issue for energy managers. Potential solutions included grouping businesses through B-corp, engaging the chamber of commerce and other organizations for these discussions, and the economic development team in councils might be a way to tap into additional resources.

Another challenge raised was getting buy-in from community-level authorities and the difficulty of engaging stakeholders without turning meetings into talking shops. Opportunities mentioned included using case studies to instigate conversations, framing discussions in a way that makes them relevant to people (e.g., money saving, comfort, freeing up hospital beds), and creating partnership meetings to facilitate engagement. The potential social value of LAEPs was also highlighted as an opportunity to incorporate into the plans.

CONCLUSION & NEXT STEPS

Overall, the seminars highlighted the importance of collaboration, communication, and strategic planning to achieve the goals of local energy planning and net zero initiatives. The feedback underscores the need for SSEN to continue engaging with stakeholders, providing support and training, and refining their processes to ensure effective and efficient energy planning and delivery. Of note, SSEN needs to consider:

- **Data Collection Process:** There is a need for the energy key players (SSEN, NESO etc) to make the data collection process easy and convenient for local authorities. This includes providing templates and requests for information upfront to facilitate the process.
- **Data Submission:** The timing and frequency of data submissions are important. A running cycle for uploads through LENZA could be useful, but it depends on the quality and format of the information required.
- **Internal Data Challenges:** There are challenges with making internal data from local authorities into the required format for collection in the DFES. This includes issues with location data and the flexibility needed in accepting location information.
- **Systems Thinking:** LENZA promotes systems thinking at local authorities, with SSEN as an instigator and coordinator of discussions.
- **Data Sharing and Forecasting:** Business groups are looking to galvanize data sharing and promote data input to forecasting processes. A deadline for data submission is seen as beneficial, but consistent use and maintenance of plans in LENZA could become a significant task.
- **Alignment with Delivery Plans:** Aligning data inputs with delivery plans created by local authorities for climate strategies is important. This would create tangible delivery projects that could be flagged in the DFES process.

The next steps involve continuing to deliver and refine the engagement programme, moving into year two of the LENZA programme, supporting DFES submissions through the digital tool, and providing ongoing training and support. There is also a focus on better coordination and consistency between LAEPs, enhancing the LENZA tool for better interaction, and supporting local plan development and net zero planning. Given that not all local authorities within SSEN's southern licence are currently developing LAEPs, SSEN need to consider the different approaches to engagement required. The Whole System Team will continue to acquire feedback from stakeholders to ensure support and engagement is offered in the most valuable way to support enablement of local ambition.

APPENDIX 1: SLIDO RAW FEEDBACK

What impact have we made on your work over the last year?

Setting up monthly engagement meetings for LEVI have been helpful to understand more about SSEN processes. Would like more help to get Berks wide LENZA operational.	Supporting grid constraint discussions with major energy users
Joining DFES data collection workshops with our local high energy demand stakeholders	Improved our understanding of the network/outcome interactions. Connected us to other stakeholders. And given us a lot to do with consultations.
Progressing certain high priority GSP SDPs	Better understanding of distribution networks and ability to signpost colleagues to relevant resources, e.g. LENZA
Lenza tool	Given us a contact point and knowledge about network issues. Also Lenza tool.
Facilitated strong engagement and increased capacity within the local authority to move towards a LAEP and improve housing decarbonisation uptake.	The team have been integral to instigating discussions within the council about working on the borough's energy planning.
It enabled me to have an understanding of your processes and engagement efforts	Greater transparency over past year massively progressing our understanding of how West London partners can collaborate with SSE
Increased input into DFES process	Support on BCP's LAEP
Supported by attending our board and strategic project boards to ensure grid considered	Provision of information and forecasts to help inform development aspirations
We have gathered and inputted data Supporting LAEP project scoping	Better planning and scenarios
Greater ability to engage with SSEN, e.g., over projected growth forecasts/energy capacity constraints.	Better understanding of network distribution
Made lenza available, as a really usefull tool for local energy planning and provided support to use	LENZA has been really helpful for our strategic planning when it comes to where we can install EV charging infrastructure
Good at sharing other examples and opportunities	Have got us thinking and kept LAEPs and strategic energy planning at the front of our minds. Helped us start the process of preparing a laep
Significant progress on LAEP would have not been possible without SSEN support.	Support for Laep and LENZA
Better access to datasets	Better overall engagement with ssen
Identifying areas to target for fuel poverty campaigns. Identified opportunities and barriers with datasets through Lenza	None so far but that's why I'm here!
As you learn more you have more and better question. So it is a ongoing developmental process	Increased engagement to help understand processes
Improved access to data via LENZA	Made it easier to access data

Supported with initiating LAEP creation and building our understanding of LENZA tool	Very proactive and happy to engage and participate in ongoing work around net zero planning. Nothing tangible yet but expect it will come!
Now engaged in SSEN	More engagement
Provided support to make delivery of projects easier	Provided helpful data and spatial tools
Quicker replies to queries	More work but no real resource support
Increased understanding of the energy system and how LAEP's feed into plans	Consider role of and engagement in LAEPs
Employing the right people	Better articulation of the energy system to our communities.
Awareness opportunities	Easy access to data via lenza
Bringing stakeholders together	Provided useful datasets via LENZA
Increased workload	

Going forward, what further opportunities are there for us to collaborate?

Aligning SDPs and DNOA with NGET business plans (T3 and T4) and West London LAEP	DFES RESP LAEP triage 😊
Increasing understanding and awareness in wider local stake holders (eg putting on webinar series for Oxfordshire county?) to support our leap and dfes	Further collaboration with high energy users within district councils
Develop initiatives / projects that unlock strategic investment that reflect the LAs ambitions	Communicating importance of local energy planning with senior officers/members
Flexibility projects. LEVI Heat network planning, LAEP development - RESP and Heat network coordinators	Newsletters Yearly catchups
Medium and large scale project planning	Ensuring demand projections for Local Authority development sites are included in plans
Help getting Berks wide LENZA operational	Development and implementation of LAEP and grid capacity for net zero retrofit
To guide us on how best to feed into DFES and support us in the creation of a LAEP	Working with us on demand management and infrastructure upgrades
Dfes annual re run	Work with colleagues to understand connection's and local plans
Better coordination and consistency between LAEP so we can lever in resource	Devolution
Lenza, laep, community energy, dfes	Show evidence of taking feedback and reacting to with investment plans
Help us scope and develop the first stages of our LEAP and help us understand how our consultants can harness LENZA for this	On site collab days with multidisciplinary team as LAs go through their laep journey. This way the SSEN team really see The challenges up close in terms of constraints and issues

More of the same support in using LENZA as a tool helping LAEP preparation. We need to find the resources to support this	Enhancements to Lenza tool to allow more direct and immediate interaction on problems and plans
Supporting us to get our planning colleagues to care	Better local engagement as part of the local area energy plan
Potential LAEP in future. Or more detail for our net Zero strategy. Potential involvement in broader group of local stakeholders as well, to drive local action and participation	Development of tools to support vision and local policies of net zero.
Understanding how community based information can help with focusing effective interventions and opportunities	Opportunity to engage with Local Authority as a landowner with interest in development and explore ways to support economic development in our areas
On LENZA tools / functionalities. Supporting LAEP. Engaging on development plans.	Support with technical modelling in LENZA using projects, scenarios, and portfolios functionalities
Digitalising our LAEP	Understanding and building capacity in the area - generation, supply and demand
Finding ways to make energy a statutory duty for local government	Support with local plan
If it was made simpler to upload data to LENZA, then you would get better collaboration from the LA's.	Attending offices to present and explain
Help to engage with residents in net zero planning and increase their understanding	Better engagement around dfes
Assist with specific scenario planning and project pipelines.	LAEP consultation project
Development of our LAEP and delivery mechanisms/pipeline	Delivery of LAEP. Involvement of RESP
Support LEAP development	Support with developing stakeholders engagement plans and processes for LAEP
Working with LAs to support local energy planning.	Get involved in our Local Plan preparation
Local plan	RESP and many more!
More involvement in net zero planning	Developing and testing new functionalities in LENZA

APPENDIX 2: WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

We asked the following three questions (via Slido) at the start of the seminars and again at the end of the seminars to understand the effectiveness of the engagement.

1. On a scale of 1-5 (1 is strongly disagree, 5 is strongly agree), how would you rate the following statement?
 "I am very familiar with SSEN's strategic network planning progress."

Southampton			Reading		
Before	After	Difference	Before	After	Difference
2.9	3.7	+16%	2.5	3.8	+26%

2. On a scale of 1-5 (1 is strongly disagree, 5 is strongly agree), how would you rate the following statement?
 "SSEN's DSO is a trusted partner in our efforts to achieve net zero."

Southampton			Reading		
Before	After	Difference	Before	After	Difference
4.3	4.4	+2%	3.8	4.5	+14%

3. On a scale of 1-5 (1 is low, 5 is high), how well do you understand the role of DFES in guiding investment in the electricity network and the significance of your engagement in the DFES process?

Southampton			Reading		
Before	After	Difference	Before	After	Difference
2.8	4.0	+24%	2.5	3.6	+22%

We asked the following questions (via Slido) at the end of the seminars to acquire feedback on overall event design and delivery.

4. On a scale of 1-5 (1 is strongly disagree, 5 is strongly agree), how would you rate the following statement?
 "Communication in the lead up to today was clear and at the right frequency."

Southampton	Reading
4.4	4.3

5. On a scale of 1-5 (1 is strongly disagree, 5 is strongly agree), how would you rate the following statement?
 "My understanding of the subject has improved."

Southampton	Reading
4.4	4.5

6. On a scale of 1-5 (1 is strongly disagree, 5 is strongly agree), how would you rate the following statement?

“Overall, today has proved valuable and a good use of time.”

Southampton	Reading
4.6	4.6

Finally, we asked an open feedback question

7. What new ideas of plans has this event sparked?

To gain support, it's important to focus on promoting the growth agenda, not solely net zero.	Collaborating with other LAS. Future Energy Landscapes as engagement tool. Using Dorset template material, net zero go.
More reflection on possible stakeholder gaps, like GPs or commercial representative bodies	Working collaboratively to share experiences.
Lots of existing stuff out there to use	Practical examples of how LEAP can be helpful to different departments in the council
Great collaboration opportunities.thanks for the invite	Hyper local plans, Engage with local large energy consumers
Potential for P441complex sites to overcome network constraints	I will ask our colleagues in neighbouring LAs to share their experience and kick start our LAEP process.
Some more thoughts on getting buy-in. Extra training for staff and Cllrs	How to better engage stakeholders via mutual benefits
Lots of take aways and further conversations needed	Building upon existing energy planning work of local authorities
Use lenza	Talk to Dorset Council
Internal LAEP stakeholders workshop (thanks Carl!)	LAEP internal discussion/ review take forward
Looking into the toolkits that people on my table have recommended	Connection and contacts with other local authorities. Idea sharing
Explore LAEP	Progress this further in house
More education on the energy network for officers/councillors	Revisit LENZA tool and try again 😊
Securing additional internal resources	Need to engage with members on grid connection constraints
	Understanding how to loop DFES findings back to the outcomes that fed into it.
Opportunities from devolution for strategic energy planning	How can we best communicate all the processes business need to be aware of /data requests

Challenges of developing strategic priorities within the context of high uncertainty re. devolution	Taking a more strategic/coordinated approach to DFES process, including introducing LENZA to data colleagues
Net Zero go new resources	The collaboration for LAEPs NESO and SSEN really seems to have stepped up and we can now progress with LAEPs notwithstanding the funding issues.
Partnership opportunities, going beyond LAEP stage 7, LAEP cost ranges	Start LAEP discussions with senior management - work on getting buy in and putting together a clear why to help with this
Greater development of LAEP planning based on good examples provided, around stages etc	Understanding the complexities in obtaining multi-stakeholder engagement for LAEPs and methods to achieve this
Be aware of LAEP challenges	More business engagement ...and a Strategic Innovation Fund application with SSE for Park Royal.
Can SSEN co lead/champion work collecting data from stakeholders for DFES or other	Integrating energy thinking and planning across council departments. Particularly strategic planning and economic development
Greater understanding of the overall LAEP space and ideas on stakeholder engagement and scoping strategies	A more coordinated and proactive approach to DFES submissions, ideas of how to actually approach and implement a LEAP.
How to move LAEPs from ideas to deliver	