**Q1 Do you agree with minded to decision on projects to fund**

TVCA are pleased that Ofgem have selected the NGN proposal as it fully supports the development of the hydrogen option for decarbonisation. The village project will inform the development of hydrogen as an energy vector into homes and businesses in regions such as the Tees Valley with the infrastructure to provide the reliable hydrogen supplies needed. The choice of this projects promotes the contribution the North of England can make to achieving the net zero by 2050 goal. Also, by a region with an existing understanding of Hydrogen it is more likely to initiate a more constructive public reaction.

Finally, TVCA support the approach to share the costs across all consumers as the fairest way forward towards meeting a national target.

**Q2 Do you have any views on proposed project deliverables for projects**

On the NGN proposal TVCA would suggest that further detail should be added to the deliverables in order to provide good control over progress and ensure the delivery of useful results.

The requirement to publish the site selection is of course necessary but some further conditions could be included. For example, co-ordination of any press release details and a requirement to notify specific stakeholders including local authorities who will need to be prepared to address any public reaction.

The requirement to appoint a third party to monitor and evaluate consumer research and engagement is welcome but raises the issue of whether this should be the same body for both projects, where some consistency of approach, comparability of analysis and sharing of issues would be more easily achieved.

Specifically, the NGN deliverables should address in more detail the project management aspects in terms of plans, resource allocation and progress monitoring. In addition, there needs to be outputs related to the terms of engagement with consumers including compensation/rewards, the regulation arrangements and training programmes for both users and contractors as well as NGN staff. There are also no objectives around the supply security necessary including any back up from NPG or any land access or procurement which may be needed.

TVCA also feel it would be useful to include the decision framework on whether to proceed and sufficient financial information to support this.

It is unclear to TVCA whether tender documentation is needed at this stage or from Stage 3, but this too could be required.

Finally, TVCA consider that the technical details assembled in the work should be made available to other networks, similarly to the provisions around the recent power CCS projects.

**Q3 Do you have any views on the proposed directions for the projects**

TVCA are content with this section.