﻿﻿Please find attached details of our submission in support of SPEN’s application for a Net Zero Fund

SPEN-Q6: What are your views on our proposals for SPEN’s bespoke UMs?:

We believe that Scottish Power Energy Networks is best placed to deliver a Net Zero Fund in Scotland which would make a fast and significant impact to help drive sustainable economic recovery alongside supporting citizens and the wider public sector to achieve net zero whilst driving innovative solutions and also supporting communities and vulnerable customers.

Our direct experience of collaborative working with SPEN through the Green Economy Fund has already led to significant outcomes including the CORE project in Cumnock which has created a £25m UK wide national energy resource centre which is targeting scalable energy solutions and innovations for off gas grid housing.

The proposed £30m is required to act as an investment catalyst levering in additional funds and developing partnership projects. The fund will accelerate net zero activity as well as supporting vulnerable customers and communities through the current energy crisis. However, the fund will also help with further decarbonisation and building more resilience and capacity in the Scottish energy market. The current funding landscape is piecemeal and complex, this fund would be more strategic and targeted to maximise opportunities and outcomes.

Having the DNO as fund operator drives a more strategic approach. Their depth of knowledge of current and planned infrastructure investments, existing or emerging constraints, innovations, the nature of the energy markets and broad stakeholder networks mean the fund can deliver real value for money and progress at a faster pace.

With the current reduced capacity for equivalent funding support from the Scottish Government, this fund will provide a real incentive to fill a gap to support communities, companies, academia and the public sector to ramp up net zero actions.

In summary, we see SPEN as an extremely capable and strategic organisation with all the resources required to successfully deliver a £30m Net Zero fund for Scotland. Had the Green Economy Fund not been made available, projects like CORE and HALO would have have progressed so this track record of success should be a key determining factor.

Regards

Phil

Phil Prentice

Chief Officer

Scotland's I Towns I Partnership