I am one of the large number of people who participated in the Western Power consultations about the next 5 year spend cycle.

It was well run, thorough and we really felt that we were making a difference to what would happen.

I am appalled to hear that you are now proposing to  slow down investment in infrastructure.

This is the moment to act positively for the future.

As energy prices soar and climate breakdown affects us even more we need more investment , not less, to re-engineer our electricity systems for current and future realities.

Please reconsider your draft determination – I and many of those I represent are relying on you to facilitate a lead from this vital industry, not delay a well considered timely response.

Apologies for my late input - many people are not in their usual routines in August and I have only got word of the consultation today.

Here are a few of the clear messages from WPD’s thorough consultation.

·       Our stakeholders are crystal clear that they want WPD to become a net zero business by 2028, encouraging others to follow our lead and demonstrating how it can be achieved.

·       Ofgem’s Draft Determination would result in WPD being able to facilitate the connection and charging of **22% (311,849) fewer electric vehicles** than our stakeholder determined target of 1.5 million.

·       Delaying essential investment potentially adds **2 to 5 years** to local stakeholder net zero goals and delays of becoming a net zero from 2028 to 2035.

All the best

Cllr Trish Marsh

Herefordshire Council