

UK POWER NETWORKS: SOUTH EASTERN POWER NETWORKS PLC (SPN)
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Date: 16 February 2024

Dear UK POWER NETWORKS: SOUTH EASTERN POWER NETWORKS PLC,

SIF Project Direction ref: SPN/CLIP/SIFWSPFAR/Rd3_Discovery

UK Power Networks: South Eastern Power Networks PLC submitted CLIP: Community Led Integrated Planning (the Project) to be considered for funding through the Discovery Phase of round 3 of the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). In our¹ SIF Funding Decision finalised on 16 February 2024, we selected the Project² for conditional funding for the round 3 Discovery Phase and as a result we are now issuing this SIF Project Direction to implement that decision.

UK Power Networks: South Eastern Power Networks PLC must comply with the conditions contained in this SIF Project Direction as a condition of the Project receiving funding through the SIF. These conditions can be found in the Schedule to this document.

Progression through SIF Phases

The SIF consists of a multi-phase approach for Projects in order to mitigate the risk associated with innovations. The Discovery Phase focuses on feasibility, the Alpha Phase on experimental development, and the Beta Phase on deployment and demonstration. This Project Direction is for the round 3 Discovery Phase of the SIF.

¹ The terms 'we', 'us', 'our' refer to the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority. Ofgem is the office of the Authority.

² Unless otherwise specified, defined terms in this SIF Project Direction have the meaning given to them in Appendix 1 of the SIF Governance Document.

Role of UK Research & Innovation (UKRI)

As per Chapter 1 of the SIF Governance Document³ the role of UKRI is to deliver the SIF in line with the SIF Governance Document - administering the funding programme, monitoring the delivery of Projects, collating data from Projects on benefits, making recommendations to Ofgem on operational matters, supporting third-party innovators and, where possible, supporting successful Projects to become 'business as usual' activities. To support the success of the Projects and the SIF programme, we expect that the Funding Party and Project Partners collaborate with Ofgem and UKRI.

SIF Project Direction

Paragraph 5.14 of the SIF Governance Document states that a SIF Project Direction will:

- Set out the Project-specific conditions, to which the Funding Party is committing in accepting SIF Funding.⁴
- Require the Funding Party to undertake the Project in accordance with the commitments made in the Application. Where appropriate, the SIF Project Direction may therefore include extracts from the Application or refer to specific sections of the SIF Application.⁵
- Where applicable, set out conditions (such as Project stage gates) linked to milestones and deliverables, which Projects must meet.⁶
- Set out the SIF Approved Amount for the Project, that will form part of the calculation contained in the SIF Funding Direction issued by the Authority under chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document.⁷
- Set out the Project budget that the Funding Party must report against and how variations in the Project budget will be reported.⁸
- Where applicable, set out special information sharing requirements applicable to the Project.⁹
- Set out the mechanism for the Funding Party receiving the SIF Approved Amount as set out in the SIF Funding Direction.¹⁰

All SIF Project Direction requirements are detailed in the Schedule to this SIF Project Direction.

³ <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/updated-sif-governance-document>

⁴ 'Project specific conditions' detailed under Point 3 – 'Condition Precedent' of this SIF Project Direction.

⁵ 'Project specific conditions' detailed under Point 3 – 'Condition Precedent' of this SIF Project Direction.

⁶ 'Project specific conditions' detailed under Point 3 – 'Condition Precedent' of this SIF Project Direction.

⁷ 'SIF Funding Amount' detailed under Point 5 – 'Condition Precedent' of this SIF Project Direction.

⁸ Annex 1 – Project Budget.

⁹ 'Project specific conditions' detailed under Point 3 – 'Condition Precedent' of this SIF Project Direction.

¹⁰ 'SIF Funding Amount' detailed under Point 5 – 'Condition Precedent' of this SIF Project Direction.

Decision

Provided the Funding Party complies with the SIF Governance Document and with the Schedule to this SIF Project Direction, the Project is deemed to be an Eligible SIF Project¹¹.

This SIF Project Direction constitutes notice pursuant to section 49A (Reasons for decisions) of the Electricity Act 1989.

Marzia Zafar

Deputy Director, Decentralisation & Digitalisation

For and on behalf of the Authority

¹¹ 'Eligible SIF Project' is a defined term in the SIF Governance Document. See also, paragraph 5.13 of the SIF Governance Document.

Schedule to SIF Project Direction

1. PROJECT DETAILS

SIF Project Direction reference: SPN/CLIP/SIFWSPFAR/Rd3_Discovery

Application number: 10106917

Project title: CLIP: Community Led Integrated Planning

Innovation Challenge/Project Phase: Whole system planning and utilisation of networks to facilitate faster and cheaper network transformation and asset rollout / Discovery Phase round 3

Project start date: 01 March 2024

Project end date: 31 May 2024

SIF Approved Amount for SIF Funding: £122,833

2. PREAMBLE

This SIF Project Direction is issued by the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the "Authority") to UK Power Networks: South Eastern Power Networks PLC (the "Funding Party") pursuant to the SIF Governance Document issued pursuant to Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence. It sets out the conditions to be complied with in relation to CLIP: Community Led Integrated Planning (the "Project") as a condition of it being funded under the SIF Funding Mechanism.¹²

Unless otherwise specified, defined terms in this SIF Project Direction have the meaning given to them in the Licence or Appendix 1 of the SIF Governance Document.

References to specific sections of the Funding Party's Application in this SIF Project Direction are, for ease of reference, made by referring to the section number in the Funding Party's Application.

3. PROJECT SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

In accepting funding for the Project, the Funding Party is subject to the following Project-specific conditions:

Condition 1

The Funding Party must not spend any SIF Funding until contracts are signed with the Project Partners named in Table 1 for the purpose of completing the Project.

¹² The SIF Funding Return Mechanism is defined in the SIF Governance Document.

Table 1. Project Partners

BURO HAPPOLD LIMITED
COMMUNITY ENERGY SOUTH LTD

Condition 2

The Funding Party must report on the financial contributions made to the Project as set out in its Application. Any financial contributions made over and above that stated in its Application should also be reported and included within the Project costs template.

Condition 3

The Funding Party must make reasonable endeavours to participate in all meetings related to the Project that they are invited to by Ofgem, UKRI and DESNZ during the Discovery Phase.

Condition 4

Prior to the midpoint of the Discovery Phase the Funding Party must undertake a mapping exercise to identify a stakeholder engagement plan which must outline who the project will engage with in less engaged communities as well as outlining any planning process gaps for communities. This must be presented to the Monitoring Officer.

Condition 5

Prior to completion of the Discovery Phase the Funding Party must identify and present to the Monitoring Officer the extent to which CLIP adds value compared to LAEP process, and whether improving the LAEP methodology or existing LAEP tools would better target community need.

Condition 6

Prior to the completion of the Discovery Phase the Funding Party must present an outline to the Monitoring Officer of the scale of additionality that community owned assets and funds would provide above household and network savings as part of this work. It will also be important to highlight any potential inequality issues between communities viewed as "more ready" than others, and how the community approach might support a fairer net zero transition versus more individual LCT uptake approaches.

4. COMPLIANCE

The Funding Party must comply with Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence, the SIF Governance Document and with this SIF Project Direction.

5. SIF APPROVED AMOUNT

The SIF Approved amount of £122,833 (as detailed under Section 1: Project details of this Project Direction) will be recovered by National Grid Electricity System Operator from GB customers and transferred to the Funding Party. The Funding Party is responsible for notifying National Grid Electricity System Operator of the bank account details to which transfers must be made, in addition to completing Annex 2 of this SIF Project Direction. If a Funding Party is required to return funding to National Grid Electricity System Operator, the reverse applies. The Funding Party must provide bank account details to National Grid Electricity System Operator within two weeks of accepting this SIF Project Direction.

6. PROJECT BUDGET

The Project budget is set out in Annex 1 of this SIF Project Direction.

The Funding Party must report on expenditure against each line under the category total in the Project Budget and explain any projected variance against each line as part of its detailed report which will be provided, in accordance with Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document. The Funding Party must report variations in the Project budget as outlined in Chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document.

7. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The Funding Party must undertake the Project in accordance with the commitments it has made in the Application and with the conditions of this SIF Project Direction. These include (but are not limited to) the following:

- (i) To undertake the Project in accordance with its Application,
- (ii) To complete the Project on or before the Project completion date as detailed under Section 1 of the Schedule to this SIF Project Direction, and
- (iii) To disseminate the learning from the Project at least to the level described in chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document. Dissemination of learning must be carried out whether the Project was concluded successfully or otherwise.

8. REPORTING

Ofgem and UKRI may issue guidance (and amend it from time to time) about the structure and content of the Project reporting required by Chapter 6 of the SIF

Governance Document. The Funding Party must follow this guidance in preparing the reports.

As set out in chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document, the Funding Party may be required to submit an end of Phase report to the UKRI monitoring officer for the round 3 Discovery Phase. An end of Phase report is required for the round 3 Discovery Phase if the Project is not planning on submitting an Application to the round 3 Alpha Phase and, if the Funding Party submits an Application for the Project for the round 3 Alpha Phase but is not successful. Within this report, the Funding Party must submit information related to questions on Project delivery as detailed in chapter 6, table 6 of the SIF Governance Document.

9. MONITORING

The Funding Party must comply with any reasonable request for information by its monitoring officer at UKRI and related deadlines. Ofgem, with the support of UKRI, will together monitor Project delivery, impacts and benefits. Throughout the term of the Project, progress is monitored by UKRI through a monitoring officer. The monitoring officer is the first point of contact for official notifications, queries and correspondence with UKRI and the Authority, unless otherwise required by this SIF Project Direction.

As detailed in Chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document, meetings with the monitoring officer will take place at regular intervals, as advised by Ofgem or the monitoring officer during the delivery of the Project, and at the end of each Project Phase.

10. EVALUATION

The Funding Party has acknowledged when it submitted its Application for this Project, that reporting information and data gathered during the Project's timescales (as detailed in Section 1 of the Schedule to this SIF Project Direction) will be used to evaluate Project performance. In addition, the Funding Party may be required to provide requested information outside of the Project timescales and, in particular, for the period from the Project end date to the end of the SIF Programme. Further data and reporting information may be requested (frequency and method based on requirement) outside of standard monitoring and reporting requirements as deemed necessary. Further data and information requirements must be complied with by the Funding Party and Project Partners.

11. DATA SHARING

As set out in Chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document, the Funding Party must follow Data Best Practice Guidance with regards to all data gathered or created in the course of a Project. We expect the Funding Party to document any reasons, such as commercial sensitivities, for desensitising data. As defined by, and in accordance with, Data Best Practice Guidance, Funding Parties must have a data triage process. Where multiple Project Partners are collaborating on a Project, the consortium must adopt a consistent Open Data Triage for the data related to the Project. Ofgem may require that Project information and data is also shared with other specified parties, such as parties working on complementary innovation funding programmes (subject to redaction of sensitive data).

12. CYBER SECURITY

It is the responsibility of the Funding Party and all Project Partners to implement and maintain appropriate security measures to protect personal data in accordance with The General Data Protection Regulation¹³ and Data Protection Act 2018¹⁴.

Protection of computer systems from unauthorised access or being otherwise damaged or made inaccessible must be in place alongside effective working practices. These must be maintained in line with the Funding Party's IT Management Strategies and policies.

13. PROJECT MILESTONES

The Funding Party must provide an outline in its end of Project Phase meeting with its UKRI monitoring officer that verifies the Project milestones have been achieved or explains why they have not.

Project milestones are outlined below in Table 3, based upon details contained within Question 7 and Appendix Question 9 in the Funding Party's Application.

¹³ https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/law-topic/data-protection/data-protection-eu_en

¹⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents/enacted>

Table 3. Project milestone¹⁵

Reference	Project milestone	Deadline	Overall objectives and key tasks	SIF Funding Request
Milestone 1	Work package 1:	31 May 2024	<p>Overall objective: Review current practices for LAEP, community engagement, network planning and selection processes for heating systems, retrofit solutions, renewable energy and flexibility market structures. Appraise the gaps in LAEP process, internal DNO processes and barriers for community transition. Develop outcome is the approach to CLIP.</p> <p>Key tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review best practice community engagement approaches and how they need to be tailored for a community led planning approach taking into account community needs and tailored community solutions 2. Appraise how to include community led approaches and solutions, optimised for households and the community as a whole, which includes the right sized heating and efficiency 	£20,390

¹⁵ As outlined in in the Application or Project Plan appendix.

			<p>packages for households, options on community heating e.g. ambient loops, solar PV and onshore wind to reduce bills.</p> <p>3. Review LAEP processes and identify the specific gaps in delivering community solutions including information gaps on households, the lack of accurate benchmarks for sizing infrastructure, technical options selection e.g. ambient loops and business model options e.g. local energy markets</p> <p>4. Review planning approaches to network planning and DSO services delivery to understand how it can be enhanced with community information and options selection to mitigate reinforcement, transition communities and provide flexibility into networks</p> <p>5. Produce a gap assessment report appraising current planning and community engagement practices and what needs to change.</p>	
Milestone 2	Work package 2:	31 May 2024	<p>Overall objective: Informed by WP1 - define an outline approach to clustered engagement of communities at different levels (house, street, community, clusters of communities). Develop the outline information needs, options for engagement, mitigations to community barriers of deployment and how this integrates into the planning process to provide 'bottom up' planning which will inform the LEAP.</p>	£32,856

			<p>Key tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on WP1 D1 - Develop a more detailed approach on how to engage with communities at all levels, key stakeholders, house, community, clusters of communities which includes information requirements and categorisation process for homes and communities 2. Identify specific structure for data and information requirements which will inform the planning approach for example how to evaluate heating system sizing, efficiency measures, house archetype, locations for community energy options 3. Identify the feedback needed by communities to respond to the plans as a mechanism for engagement, confidence building, preplanning consultation - aiming at ensuring buy-in to the LAEP and community specific plan including understanding the benefits. 4. Investigate how the process needs to include scaling to include for different communities and DNO electricity boundaries, how to explore synergies between communities and how to transition multiple communities. 5. Develop a planned approach to creating an ecosystem of partners and stakeholders e.g. local authority, local 	
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			community representatives, use of community centres, and use of DNO community led initiatives on fuel poverty 6. Produce a community engagement strategy outline report with a suggested approach on how to engage with communities and the information that is needed.	
Milestone 3	Work package 3:	31 May 2024	<p>Overall objective: Informed by WP1 - develop an outline approach to community led infrastructure planning in a digital approach. Including identifying user categories, the planning flow, outline information requirements and interfaces requirement. Determine requirements in a new planning approach that considers from the outset how to complete LAEP gaps on flexibility, community heat and community energy models for deployment.</p> <p>Key tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Based on WP1 - Identify possible digital planning techniques to include for community data, DNO network data and community business models based on LAEP best practice but adapted to include community led plans and individual household information 2. Defined approach to integrating into LAEP processes based on developing information and process flows that allow a LAEP to include community led infrastructure plan and vice versa - 	£41,575

			<p>ensuring this could be kept live and updated as communities transition</p> <p>3. Digital exchange process outlined with DNO systems to inform and be informed by DNO planning process for understanding and implementing a traffic light process on where DNO investment is needed, where communities are ready to transition and where flexibility is needed and how much could be delivered from community and household solutions</p> <p>4. Adaption of the LAEP planning process to include for new options including built in flexibility from storage, heating systems. Include options not normally considered with an approach to accurately sizing ambient heating loops, heat networks, efficiency measures and local generation. Include for new options including using smart meter data to analyse network capacity and home efficiency</p> <p>5. Develop a scaling approach to develop solutions at building level, community level, clusters of communities and regional to feed into LAEP</p> <p>6. Produce a report describing how current LAEP and DNO planning practices can be adapted to include a digitalised community led planning approach with a summary of the</p>	
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			types of information transfer and levels of integration to other systems needed.	
Milestone 4	Work package 4:	31 May 2024	<p>Overall objective: Informed by WP1 - Specific review on DNO/DSO integration requirements into the community led planning approach. Includes appraising current practices, planned developments (including UKPN Net Zero Hub) and opportunities for adjusting the planning approach. DSO elements will include adjusting the planning approach to revalue flexibility so it is planned and delivered from the outset in areas that benefit from it (e.g. using ambient loops and home energy storage to peak shift).</p> <p>Key tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review how current DNO planning practices can be adapted so that asset planning and deployment under ED2 (plus) will take into account community readiness to deploy and needs based on their decarbonisation plan. How community planning will also be informed by the DNO plan e.g. where reinforcement is already planned. 2. Review DSO integration techniques into planning for flexibility delivered by community solutions which will benefit the 	£5,775

			<p>network and mitigate aspects such as supply chain constraints and capacity constraints in enabling communities to transition</p> <p>3. Produce a report summarising from DNO and DSO perspectives how current planning practices can be adjusted to include for integration into the community led planning approach</p>	
Milestone 5	Work package 5:	31 May 2024	<p>Overall objective: The objective of this work package is to ensure the project is delivered to time, budget and specification</p> <p>Key tasks:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plan (identify and agree on key milestones under each workstream, risks, dependencies, and review process) 2. Monitor progress and learning, and report interim progress to Innovate UK 3. Monitor progress and learning with fortnightly team meetings, Show & Tell webinar and end of phase meeting with Innovate UK 4. Produce end of phase reporting 	£22,237

14. USE OF LOGO

The Funding Party, Project Partners, External Funders and Project Supporters including any of their subcontractors¹⁶ must not use the Innovate UK/UKRI and/or Ofgem logo for purposes associated with the Project in any circumstances.

As an alternative for use of both Ofgem and UKRI logos, all external Project communications must include the following standard form of wording:

- (i) "this project is funded by network users and consumers under the Strategic Innovation Fund, an Ofgem programme managed in partnership with UKRI."

For additional guidance, refer to the communications and media guidelines for competition winners, detailed as part of your delivery pack. These guidelines are designed to help with some suggestions and encourage you to take a proactive approach to communicating about your Project.

15. SHARING OF LESSONS LEARNED

The Funding Party is required to ensure that the sharing of lessons learned and the facilitation of knowledge transfer is conducted as effectively as possible, to ensure that all parties, and therefore all consumers including future consumers, can benefit from Projects.

As contained within Chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document, we require the Funding Party to work collaboratively to maintain the ENA Smarter Networks Portal so that all reporting and dissemination of learnings on Projects (as required by chapter 6 of the SIF Governance Document) is available via the ENA Smarter Networks Portal.

16. COLLABORATION

The Funding Party must collaborate with third-party innovators as Project Partners, as well as work closely with other parties in the energy supply chain, as set out in Chapter 3 of the SIF Governance Document.

The Funding Party must collaborate with other parties and with UKRI to organise an annual conference in a format appropriate to enabling the building of consortiums and the dissemination of learning widely. The conference may be a single event for gas and electricity, or more than one event, as appropriate.

¹⁶ As detailed in the Application.

17. AMENDMENT OR REVOCATION

As set out in Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document, this SIF Project Direction may be amended or revoked under the following circumstances:

- (i) if the Funding Party considers that there has been a Material Change in circumstance that requires a change to the SIF Project Direction, and the Authority agrees; or
- (ii) to reflect amendments made to the Licence.

18. HALTING OF PROJECTS

This SIF Project Direction is subject to the provisions contained in Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document relating to the halting of Projects. By extension, this SIF Project Direction is subject to any decision by the Authority to halt the Project to which this SIF Project Direction relates and to any subsequent relevant SIF Funding Direction issued by the Authority pursuant to Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence.

Further to the requirements in Chapter 7 of the SIF Governance Document, in the event the Authority decides to halt the Project, to which this SIF Project Direction relates, the Authority may issue a statement to the Funding Party clarifying the effect of that halting decision as regards to the status and legal force of the conditions contained in this SIF Project Direction.

NOW THEREFORE:

In accordance with the SIF Governance Document issued pursuant to Special Condition 9.9 of the Electricity Distribution Licence of the Licence the Authority hereby issues this SIF Project Direction to the Funding Party in relation to the Project.

This constitutes notice of reasons for the Authority's decision pursuant to section 49A (Reasons for decisions) of the Electricity Act 1989.

Failure to comply with the conditions of this SIF Project Direction means that Ofgem may treat all or part of the SIF Approved Amount received by the Funding Party as SIF Disallowed Expenditure.

ANNEX 1: PROJECT BUDGET

SIF Project Direction costs	
Cost Category	Total Project costs (£)
Labour	118,819
Materials	0
Subcontracting	16,300
Travel and subsistence	1,800
Other costs	0
Total	136,919

Project Partner	Total Project costs (£)	Project contribution (£)	Total SIF Funding requested (£)	Project contribution (%)
UK Power Networks (OPERATIONS) Ltd	31,125	3,113	28,012	10.00
BURO HAPPOLD Ltd	67,094	6,973	60,121	10.39
Community Energy South Ltd	38,700	4,000	34,700	10.34
Total	136,919	14,086	122,833	10.29

ANNEX 2 TO SCHEDULE: TEMPLATE OF BANK ACCOUNT DETAILS TO BE PROVIDED TO EITHER NGT (BOX.GSOSETTLEMENTS@NATIONALGRID.COM) OR NG ESO (revenue.invoice@nationalgrideso.com)

Company name:

Primary Contact Details (only one contact permitted)

First Name:

Last Name:

Email address:

Mobile phone number:

Work phone number:

Address details

Address name:

Street address:

City:

State / region:

Post code:

PO box: (if applicable)

PO box post code: (if applicable)

Banking details

These should be evidenced in non-editable format. The evidence provided must show company name and bank details and it should be dated within the last 6 months.

Any of the below documents will suffice:

- Bank statement (scanned document)
- Void cheque
- Paying in slip
- Screenshot of online banking (showing a logged in account with bank account and sort code, with browser visible)