



British Chambers of Commerce

Response to consultation on Regional Energy Strategic Plan policy framework: 7 October 2024

Submitted by email to: resp@ofgem.gov.uk

About the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC)

Across the UK, the 52 Accredited Chambers that make up our network are trusted champions of businesses, places, and global trade. Together, we represent tens of thousands of businesses of all shapes and sizes, which employ almost six million people across the UK. Our growing Global Business Network also connects exporters with over 75 markets around the world.

Working together, we help firms of all sizes to achieve more. We believe it is our relationships with others that lead us to achieve goals beyond those we could ever achieve alone. We are the only organisation that helps British businesses to build relationships on every level, in every region and nation of the UK. Our network exists to support and connect companies, bringing together firms to build new relationships, share best practice, foster new opportunities, and provide practical support to help member businesses trade locally, nationally, and globally.

While we have not been able to provide a detailed responses to each question in this consultation, we would like to offer these general views and observations.

Consultation response

The BCC welcomes the key objective of the Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) around supporting coordinated development of the distribution system and enabling long-term investment to be made with confidence and ahead of need. Regarding regional governance, the BCC recognises the importance of the RESPs working with organisations at a local level, including local and devolved government, gas and electricity networks and heat network developers, to ensure common objectives, better understanding of needs and bringing investor confidence.

The proposal for each region to have a Strategic Board to provide a forum for collaboration is welcome, and the BCC strongly believes that engaging with the business community at this local level is essential in ensuring that any views, needs or concerns of businesses are appropriately represented. Local Chambers of Commerce are well-placed to facilitate business representation and engagement at local levels and we would welcome the opportunity to participate where possible.

Overall, the BCC agrees with the principles as outlined in paragraph 2.8, particularly around being proactive in enabling investment in network infrastructure to support net zero, while remaining agile in cases of uncertainty. In addition, the BCC agrees with the long-term regional vision which sets thematic priorities for the region, developed through the close coordination and engagement of local actors. It is essential that there is strong engagement with the business community to ensure that any business views are fully represented too.

We would be pleased to contribute further to this consultation and discuss our response with you in more detail. For more information, please contact Ben Martin, Policy Manager, British Chambers of Commerce: b.martin@britishchambers.org.uk