

LCN Fund Full Submission

Supplementary Answer Form

Tick if this answer is Confidential: ☐

Tick if this answer has been provided verbally: ☐

Project code:	NPG203	Question Number	6
Question date	29 August 2013	Answer date	5 September 2013
Submission section question relates to	2: Project Description - Early Bilateral		
Topic	Commercial		
Question	How could a DNO cope in areas where the Council might not be so enthusiastic about this method of community engagement?		
Notes on question			
Answer	<p>The purpose of the ACE trial is to establish whether DNOs can access a low cost source of demand side response from local authority buildings, and from residential customers by influencing parents via their children and by engaging with the wider community using online propositions.</p> <p>It is clear that the success of the ACE project will be heavily influenced by the level of support given by Durham County Council and so, before answering the questions above, the key questions that also need to be answered are:</p> <p>“Why is Durham County Council so supportive of this idea?”</p> <p>“How likely are other Councils to offer the same level of support?”</p> <p>Durham County Council is interested in promoting sustainability and facilitating a route to a low carbon economy to help the environment but also to help the communities in Durham achieve growth through efficiency. They are therefore keen to partner with Northern Powergrid on the ACE project to explore new behavioural techniques that could be used to influence energy usage within its own portfolio of buildings, thereby keeping Council costs down, and also amongst residents in the Durham area either directly or via their children using schools programmes.</p> <p>Durham County Council can therefore see that the ACE project is complementary to the work of the council in tackling climate change, reducing energy costs for its communities and working towards a more</p>		

	<p>sustainable future.</p> <p>Durham is not unusual amongst councils. Councils across the country are aligning themselves with the Government targets for the reduction of carbon emissions from their own operations and also from the wider community in areas where it is possible for the Councils to provide assistance and encouragement. Some Councils are promoting green cities and making green pledges. We therefore do not foresee why a Council would not wish to engage with their local DNO on these propositions, should they prove to be successful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Schools Trials</i> - Durham County Council has a "Sustainable Schools Corporate Strategy" which has been put in place to help all schools become Sustainable Schools by 2020. Sustainable schools explore sustainable development through their teaching provision and learning (curriculum); in their values and ways of working (campus); and in their engagement of local people and partners (community). A sustainable school is therefore a route for schools to give pupils the opportunity to practice sustainable development in the local community. Durham County Council can see that the DSR proposal offers another aspect of sustainability that would be a useful addition to the school curriculum in the area. All Councils have responsibility for the primary schools in their area and, if proven to be successful, we do not foresee why a Council would not want to support this initiative. • <i>Wider Community Trials</i> - For the wider community trials, we are only requesting that the Councils provide access to decision makers and opinion formers in the community and, again, we feel that the DSR propositions should have wide appeal, once communicated and we hope that examples of its success on the trials in Durham will encourage other Councils in the Northern Powergrid region to take part when rolled out on a wider scale and Councils in other areas when introduced by other DNOs. • <i>Local Authority Trials</i> - The purpose of the local authority building trial is to establish what level of DSR can be achieved from working with a local authority and we are looking for this trial to be demonstrated as a win / win arrangement that any Council would want to undertake for commercial cost saving reasons as well as for its sustainability credentials. We are hoping that the energy savings made by Durham County Council will encourage all Councils to adopt similar practices and, if the project is successful in this area, we would expect Durham County Council to promote it to other Councils and do not foresee why other councils would lack enthusiasm in taking up such measures. <p>The ACE project will ensure that DNOs are provided with best practice guidance and promotional material which they can use to make a case with their local Councils for participation in their region.</p>
Attachments	

Verbal Clarifications (Consultants)	
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