

Internal Only

I am writing further to the recent consultation response Telford Council issued in regard to the performance of Western Power within our Borough.

As a result of this and feedback passed from yourselves to Western Power a meeting has been held between us where a number of actions have arisen which look to address a number of our concerns particularly around their performance. A copy of the email from Western Power and letter confirming what actions are going to take place as a result of the meeting are shown below and attached.

It should be noted however there remains an underlying issue with the overall delivery of electricity within the Borough. It is however understood following our meeting with Western Power this is as a result of the way you dictate how they manage the network rather than their abilities.

Specifically the issues of investment into the network to provide supply to new customers is simply not addressed. I understand that you prevent Western Power from proactively investing into the network to future proof planned expansion. Any expansion is therefore reliant where there is no capacity on investment by the developer/local authority/LEP at a significant cost and timescale. Furthermore a policy where electricity capacity is awarded on a first come first serve basis is completely at odds with looking to spread cost and being fair.

The approach to new supplies that you are allowing to happen within the sector is completely at odds with governments drive for growth and it is not something that is restricted to Telford but indeed is an issue throughout the country.

I urge you to reconsider your approach and I should say that I will be passing my findings on this matter to our LEP chairman in order for the matter to be taken up at ministerial level.

If you would like to discuss this matter further with me then I would be more than happy to do so.

I am writing to thank you for hosting the meeting today.

I felt today was very productive and it was good to clarify the points regarding reinforcement of our network, how it is funded and the timing of the works. I hope you found it useful to meet with your senior manager point of contact, Andy Barton who will be your point of escalation should any issues arise in the future.

At the meeting, I agreed to facilitate the setting up of quarterly review meetings where representatives for your Council can meet with Andy Barton and our local strategic planners. The first of these meetings is to be held before the end of September this year. This forum will give you the opportunity to let us you're your future plans and allow us to guide you as to where any network constraints may apply.

Once again, I would like to thank you for a productive meeting today and if you require any further information please feel free to contact me on