

Response template – Incentive on Connections Engagement June 2017

Question	Response																																						
About you and your work																																							
1. What is the name of your company?	Shropshire Council																																						
2. Which DNO's ICE submission is your response related to (see Annex 2 for DNO map)? Please indicate clearly in your response to the questions below whether your comments refer to the DNO's plans as a whole, or to one of the DNO's licence areas. If you wish to provide a response to the ICE submission of more than one DNO, please use a separate template for each DNO.	Scottish Power Energy Networks																																						
3. What type of connection do you generally require? And for each type of connection, how many connection applications, including total MVA (Mega Volt Ampere) of connections have you made in the past year? Please note that we will assess storage within the relevant metered generation market segment.	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Type of connection</th><th>Total number of connections</th><th>Total MVA of connections</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td rowspan="4">Metered Demand Connections</td><td>Low Voltage (LV) Work</td><td>10</td><td>0.57</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>5</td><td>0.933</td></tr> <tr> <td>High Voltage (HV) Work</td><td>6</td><td>14.1</td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td>EHV work and above</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="2">Metered Distributed Generation (DG)</td><td>LV work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>HV and EHV work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td rowspan="3">Unmetered Connections</td><td>Local Authority (LA) work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Other work</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Type of connection		Total number of connections	Total MVA of connections	Metered Demand Connections	Low Voltage (LV) Work	10	0.57		5	0.933	High Voltage (HV) Work	6	14.1	HV and Extra High Voltage (EHV) Work				EHV work and above			Metered Distributed Generation (DG)	LV work			HV and EHV work			Unmetered Connections	Local Authority (LA) work			Private finance initiatives (PFI) Work			Other work		
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Consultation questions

Section 1: Looking Back report 2016-17

We want your views on how well the DNOs have performed over the last year

1. Are you satisfied that the DNO had a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connections stakeholders? Do you consider that the DNO implemented its strategy? If not, are you satisfied that the DNO has provided a reasonable and well-justified explanation?	<p>The Shropshire Council representative that has attended the stakeholder meetings commented on the thoroughness of the strategy in seeking to make genuine efforts to engage with stakeholders, and in providing information that set out to be as accessible to as many audiences as possible in terms of content, and to employ a range of methods to aid engagement. This has been evident in the material provided for the stakeholder panel that have been attended; and the opportunity to influence the agenda of the panel in terms of consideration of equality, social inclusion and rurality issues.</p> <p>The DNO has provided timely responses to questions and have provided alternatives to one or two issues.</p> <p>I believe the DNO implemented its strategy well and provided sufficient information to allow informed decisions to be made on the development of future sites.</p>
2. Are you satisfied that the DNO had a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) to meet the requirements of its connections stakeholders? Do you consider that the DNO delivered its work plan? If not, are you satisfied that the DNO has provided a reasonable and well-justified explanation?	<p>The DNO did have a comprehensive work plan and this was made clear with regards to one site in particular which resulted in a change of Council approach.</p> <p>The DNO did deliver its work plan in a timely manner.</p>
3. Do you consider that the DNO's work plan provided relevant outputs (eg key performance indicators, targets etc.)? Are you satisfied that the DNO has delivered these outputs? If not, do you view the reasons provided to be reasonable and well justified?	<p>The work plan provided the Council with the relevant information. The Council would have preferred a shorter time but it was obvious that the work plan was required to satisfy the wider stakeholders and not a single client.</p>

4. Do you agree that the DNO's strategy, activities and outputs have taken into account ongoing feedback from a broad and inclusive range of connections stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable justification?	<p>Yes I do agree with the DNO strategy as stated before it was put in place for all clients and not just the Council.</p> <p>Consultation to date on the North Shropshire route corridor from Oswestry to Wem upgrade has been very comprehensive, where the investment by SPEN is £18million. Local views may be observed to have influenced decisions taken to date, and views are now sought in a second phase of consultation, using clearer questions and maps. The information provided by SPEN included rationale for discounting other options in favour of the chosen mode of wooden poles to carry the power, which was useful.</p>
<p>The following two questions refer to the specific areas we discuss in our letter – meeting the needs of all types of connections customers, and connecting when the networks are constrained.</p>	
5. Do you consider that the DNO's activities and outputs over the past year were adequate in meeting the needs of all types of connection customers, including the particular needs of newer types of connection customers?	<p>Yes I would say that the DNO have slightly exceeded expectations in meeting the client needs.</p>
6. Do you consider that the DNO's activities and outputs over the past year were adequate in meeting the needs of customers looking to connect when the networks are constrained?	<p>Difficult to answer, as the Council is being restrained with the shortage of power availability. The DNO are aware of this and are trying to address the issue but from a Council point of view it is frustrating that there is a shortage of immediate power.</p> <p>Shropshire Council would like to work more closely with the DNO to influence the DNO's capital programme to ensure investment to improve the capacity of the network is used to maximum effect.</p>
<p>Section 2: Looking Forward plans 2017-18</p>	
<p>We want your views on what the DNOs aim to achieve in the coming year</p>	
7. Are you satisfied that the DNO has a comprehensive and robust strategy for engaging with connection stakeholders and	<p>The Communication plan is detailed setting out the methods and channels of communication to be employed and how these will be assessed.</p>

facilitating joint discussions where appropriate?	
8. Do you agree that the DNO has a comprehensive work plan of activities (with associated delivery dates) that will meet the requirements of its connection stakeholders? If not, has the DNO provided reasonable and well-justified reasons? What other activities should the DNOs do?	Improvements to communication such as interactive tools for customers to use, project management support, review of the Quote+ tool and reduced timescales for quotes for connection are positive improvements. The strategy is strong on its Information Provision Actions, however other actions appear less detailed compared to other ice submissions.
9. Do you consider that the DNO has set relevant outputs that it will deliver during the regulatory year (eg key performance indicators, targets, etc.)?	The outputs for the Information Provision Actions and Communities Actions are detailed. The Innovation Actions relate to published findings rather than follow up actions.
10. Would you agree that the DNO's proposed strategy, activities and outputs have been informed and endorsed by a broad and inclusive range of connection stakeholders? If they have not been endorsed, has the DNO provided robust evidence that it has pursued this?	No comment
The following two questions refer to the specific areas we discuss in our letter – meeting the needs of all types of connections customers, and connecting when the networks are constrained.	
11. Do you consider that the DNO's planned activities and outputs will be sufficient to meet the needs of all types of connection customers, including the particular needs of newer types of connection customers? What other activities should the DNO undertake in this area?	The strategy identifies the investigation in the likely growth in electric vehicles and likely future network impact. This work is needed to inform future developments and the partial plan review currently being undertaken.
12. Do you consider that the DNO's planned activities and outputs will be sufficient to meet the needs of customers looking to connect when the networks are constrained? What other activities should the DNO undertake in this area?	The proposed development of a strategy with other DNO's for the introduction of storage technologies is required. Within areas of Shropshire where there are current capacity issues, proposals that would support or assist customers looking to connect would be welcomed. Shropshire Council would like to work more closely with the DNO to influence the DNO's capital programme to ensure investment to improve the capacity of the network is used to maximum effect.

	<p>There is a wider issue of the timescales for these consultation exercises. Consultations on the previous year's performance and the next years activities do not provide the opportunity to address more strategic planning issues and the means of resolving capacity issues. Shropshire Council would welcome early engagement in development planning proposals on the quantum of the development and implications on the network.</p> <p>We would see the Council's strategic development plan process being tied into the your capital programme process so that capacity issues can be related to your investment proposals and the approval by Ofgem. This would be a means of ensuring that the development plan strategy and local plan allocations are capable of being implemented and the District Network Operators can plan for growth accordingly.</p> <p>Where there are capacity issues which are not identified in the DNO's approved Investment Plan, Shropshire Council would welcome the opportunity to be involved in pilots or initiatives on small scale energy generation and the exploring the potential of battery storage given the rural nature of the area.</p>
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