

# Local Area Energy Planning – 2021 Review Open Networks

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## DOCUMENT CONTROL

### Authorities

Version	Issue Date	Authorisation	Comments
1	28/10/21	Open Networks Steering Group	

### Related documents

Reference 1	
Reference 2	

### Change history

Version	Change reference	Description

### Distribution

Public
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## Introduction

### About ENA

Energy Networks Association (ENA) represents the owners and operators of licenses for the transmission and/or distribution of energy in the UK and Ireland. Our members control and maintain the critical national infrastructure that delivers these vital services into customers' homes and businesses.

### About Open Networks

Britain's energy landscape is changing, and new smart technologies are changing the way we interact with the energy system. Our Open Networks project is transforming the way our energy networks operate. New smart technologies are challenging the traditional way we generate, consume and manage electricity, and the energy networks are making sure that these changes benefit everyone.

ENA's Open Networks Project is key to enabling the delivery of Net Zero by:

- opening local flexibility markets to demand response, renewable energy and new low-carbon technology and removing barriers to participation
- providing opportunities for these flexible resources to connect to our networks faster
- opening data to allow these flexible resources to identify the best locations to invest
- delivering efficiencies between the network companies to plan and operate secure efficient networks

## Review of 2021 LAEP activity

### Background

In February 2021 Open Networks Whole Energy System workstream (WS4) agreed to develop a report on the scope of future work to establish a framework for the energy networks' role in Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP). This product scope was to form the basis of a go/no-go decision by the Open Networks Steering Group to commence work to develop the framework. This framework was initially envisioned as a potential way ensure a coherent and consistent approach for energy networks' contributions to Local Area Energy Plans, enabling networks to fully endorse an LAEP, and for the LAEP to be credible at a wider national level. Alternatively, it was seen as potential mechanism for sharing best practice across GB.

A product team was convened to progress this work, and defined the following product objectives:

- To develop a framework within which:
  - A Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) can receive a formal energy network's endorsement and will inform their investment planning
  - The LAEP is accepted and driven by the local authority
  - Meaningful comparisons are made between individual LAEPs and they identify the private and public sector investment opportunities that will make the plan deliverable
  - Individual LAEPs can be amalgamated to inform wider regional/national net zero plans, scenarios and pathways
  - LAEPs can be refreshed as underpinning assumptions change
  - LAEPs are recognised within regulatory processes

The above was accepted and encapsulated in the sentence – 'To develop a methodology that would create Local Area Energy Plans that were actionable, investible and accepted by stakeholders.'

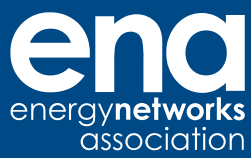
Workshops were held to progress this work and an exercise was undertaken to collect information about all the Local Area Energy Planning work that the networks were/ or had been involved with in order to benchmark what information and approaches we had across the operating areas.

### Industry LAEP activity

Through engagement with the wider industry Open Networks became aware that BEIS, Ofgem, and the ESC were in the early stages of kicking-off initiatives to develop appropriate frameworks and tools for local area energy planning. The BEIS and Ofgem initiative is at a scoping stage and will be looking at developing a local area energy mapping and planning framework (LAEMP) to support local areas in planning for delivering decarbonisation. This will be a key initiative that will inform policy development and the scope of this framework will also include Electricity and Gas networks as well as other sectors. BEIS and Ofgem will be engaging with stakeholders including networks in the next couple of months to shape this and identify next steps.

In parallel to this, ESC are delivering work to understand how different LAEPs can fit together within a national energy system strategy and are looking to define best practice.

Based on discussions with ESC and Ofgem, the Open Networks Steering Group agreed these initiatives supersede the Open Networks LAEP scoping activity. Going forwards the Open Networks WS4 will provide input into these key initiatives from a whole systems perspective. ESC have committed to attend monthly Open Networks WS4 meetings to provide updates on their work and seek feedback and input from energy networks. Going forwards Open Networks will support this ESC initiative through network input and a stand-by WS4 product team able to action specific requests. Therefore, the initial Open Networks scoping exercise has been suspended, and is being replaced by supporting activity for the ESC LAEP initiative.



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