Community Planning Alliance

Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero — 22nd October 2026

The Rt Hon Miatta Fahnbulleh MP

Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan

We understand that the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) aims to help speed up the journey to switch to clean, affordable and reliable energy and that it will do this by giving all stakeholders a clearer picture of what our future energy system will look like. The website says that the plan will take into account what the public thinks, environmental concerns, and how different industries use land and sea.

It seems that the National Energy Systems Operator (NESO) has been commissioned to develop several 'pathway options', will present those options to you and that you will then select **just one pathway for public consultation**.

We believe this is an issue that will impact communities nationwide and wholeheartedly agree with other groups that the public should have sight of the 6 proposed pathways, so they can help shape the best way forward, since they are the ones who will be living with (and ultimately paying for) the consequences of the decision.

We would, therefore, urge you to:

- Immediately publish all the NESO SSEP documents, including all 6 pathway options, the Environmental Pathway Options Report and any technical annexes to enable public scrutiny
- Defer the decision on the choice of pathway until a public consultation on all 6 options has been completed
- Fully consider the public consultation results in a transparent manner, before making a final choice on the preferred pathway
- Pause new developments until the decision is made, to avoid further harm to our natural capital assets.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Kind regards, Marj Powner

Vice Chair, Community Planning Alliance

About the Community Planning Alliance

The Community Planning Alliance is a national umbrella group for over 700 communities, all are campaigning against inappropriate development in their areas, and all disagree that decisions are being made in the 'public interest'. We have extensive knowledge and experience of the planning system, and our aims include seeking increased community participation, better environmental protections and the right homes and infrastructure in the right places.