Community Planning Alliance

Suggested letter to MPs or Mayors:

Please edit to include any local references about the potential impact on your natural capital assets or ecosystem services.

Date

Dear [Sir/Madam]

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan

[I/We] are writing to you about a matter of great concern and urge you to act as soon as possible. Time is of the essence.

The UK is soon to make one of the most consequential energy infrastructure decisions of the last sixty years. An important announcement is expected **this autumn** from the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) regarding major energy policies effective over the **next 25 years**.

This follows the submission by the National Energy System Operator (NESO) of its Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) to the government, which focuses on electricity generation and storage, as well as on production and storage of hydrogen gas.

The NESO SSEP submission comprises 6 alternative pathways for energy development across the country to the year 2050. Each of these pathways proposes a greater or lesser emphasis on the various methods of generation, production and storage which, in turn, directly influences the degree of impact upon communities, the demand on the land and seabed, potential harm to the environment and ecosystems, the industrialisation of landscapes and countryside, the impact on agriculture and food security, the effect upon local economies and much more.

It appears that neither the public nor elected representatives, will be able to participate in the decision-making process as there is no plan for public consultation on these pathways.

This is not a democratic approach, and we are concerned that the cumulative impact on our natural capital assets **will not be** considered by the DESNZ Secretary of State when making the decision without input from citizens or our elected representatives.

Please can you write as soon as possible to the Secretary of State at DESNZ (Secretary.State@energysecurity.gov.uk**) and urge her 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.

[Yours]