



Western Power Distribution Local Investment Workshops

East Midlands

September 2020

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1 | OVERVIEW

In September 2020, WPD's distribution managers hosted a series of three workshops to gather feedback from its stakeholders across the company's East Midlands region. Owing to the circumstances regarding Covid-19, the workshops were held online using the Zoom platform, rather than in person.

Most of the workshop attendees represented local authorities, although other parties involved in the growth agenda, such as developers, universities and community energy groups, were also in attendance. The feedback from all three workshops has been collated and summarised in this report.

Each workshop covered a different geographic area within the East Midlands region, as follows:

Lincolnshire	15 September 2020
Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield	17 September 2020
Northampton, Coventry and Leicester	17 September 2020

This workshop series, which gave stakeholders the opportunity to get involved in WPD's RIIO-ED2 Business Plan development, was designed with a number of objectives in mind. In addition to virtually 'meeting' their distribution manager and local teams, stakeholders were able to find out about WPD, its challenges and planned local investment, and discuss network constraints and capacity issues. WPD, meanwhile, aimed to further its understanding of local growth agendas, including Local Energy Plans, and to collect information on stakeholders' ambitions around electric vehicle charging, heat pumps and other low-carbon technologies (LCTs). The company also used the workshops as an opportunity to explain its Future Energy Scenarios, share best practice and obtain feedback on any other areas of interest for stakeholders.

The workshop was split into three sessions:

- Introducing WPD
- Supporting the Growth Agenda
- Supporting the Transition to Net Zero

Each session began with a PowerPoint presentation given by a local distribution manager or WPD staff member to provide attendees with an overview of the topic in question. Each presentation was followed by a discussion in a breakout room, aimed at gathering targeted feedback from stakeholders.

WPD instructed EQ Communications, a specialist stakeholder engagement consultancy, to independently facilitate the workshops and to take notes of the comments made by stakeholders. Comments have not been attributed to individuals to ensure that all stakeholders were able to speak as candidly as possible.

2 | EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Each workshop session opened with a presentation by a WPD representative, which was followed by discussion in a breakout room designed to elicit stakeholder feedback. In addition to discussing the topic covered during the presentation, stakeholders were asked to feed back on a number of outputs falling under six priority areas identified by stakeholders at previous engagement events in order to inform WPD's RIIO-ED2 Business Plan. The six priority areas are detailed below and the individual outputs listed under these categories can be found in Appendix 2 of this document.

- Network reliability
- Network resilience (to severe weather)
- Connections
- Community energy
- Whole system approach to achieve Net Zero
- Innovation and new services

This report contains summaries of the findings from the round-table discussions, as well as verbatim comments and written feedback from stakeholders.

SESSION ONE: INTRODUCING WPD

- Lack of capacity was a concern for many stakeholders, particularly with regard to meeting future demand, installing charge points for electric vehicles and facilitating renewable generation in rural areas. Other areas of interest included LCTs and community energy, with a number of stakeholders giving examples of implemented or planned projects.
- Stakeholders reported that some projects, including the delivery of new homes, had been delayed at the start of lockdown, although the consensus seemed to be that things were picking up. Covid-19 had resulted in changes to working practices, such as a rise in homeworking and a move to online meetings.
- With regard to WPD's outputs around resilience and reliability, stakeholders' priorities included flood planning and response, tree planting and trimming, and a local approach to customer-based resilience. A number of stakeholders called for a more ambitious customer supply restoration target in light of the rise in homeworking.

SESSION TWO: SUPPORTING THE GROWTH AGENDA

- There was broad support for WPD's approach to DFES engagement, although the company was advised to engage with a wider range of stakeholders, including LEPs, developers and policy makers, to inform its investment planning.
- Across the three East Midlands workshops, all stakeholders but one who responded to the event survey indicated that they would be willing to engage more with WPD. No respondents indicated that they were unwilling to engage more.
- There was widespread agreement that community energy groups face a number of obstacles and that WPD would be well placed to provide the support they need. Several suggestions centred around data sharing and closer engagement.
- WPD's draft outputs around community energy and connections were generally seen as sensible. In particular, stakeholders recognised the need for broader pre-application information and engagement with local authorities and LEPs.

SESSION THREE: SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

- According to the event survey, most local authorities had declared a climate emergency (71%) or set a target date for Net Zero (57%).
- Electric vehicles seemed to feature most prominently in stakeholders' plans for low-carbon technologies. While some were considering heat pumps, plans tended to be in the earlier stages, and others questioned their efficacy.
- Stakeholders generally agreed with WPD's outputs around Net Zero and innovation, with the 'ideas portal' proving a popular suggestion at all three events. However, it was felt that WPD could go further by increasing its engagement with stakeholders, lobbying government and creating innovation engagement roles within the company.

WRITTEN FEEDBACK

After the workshop, stakeholders were asked to complete a short feedback form. Some of the key findings are shown below:

- 92% of attendees who filled out a feedback form told us that they found the workshop either 'very interesting' or 'interesting'.
- 36% of stakeholders 'strongly agreed' that they had had an opportunity to make points and ask questions, while 60% 'agreed'.
- 92% 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' that the right topics were discussed on the day.
- 56% thought EQ Communications' facilitation was 'very good', with 44%, opting for 'good'.
- 92% felt the online format for the day worked either 'very well' or 'well'.

3 | ATTENDEES

A total of 61 stakeholders attended the three East Midlands workshops, representing 38 organisations. The organisations represented on the day are shown below:

- Amber Valley Borough Council
- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- Bolsover District Council
- Boston Borough Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- City of Lincoln Council
- Corby Borough Council
- Coventry City Council
- East Lindsey District Council
- Enzen Global Ltd
- Erewash Borough Council
- Extinction Rebellion
- Gedling Borough Council
- Harborough District Council
- High Peak Borough Council
- JPU
- Leicestershire County Council
- Lincolnshire County Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Matrix Planning
- Milton Keynes Council
- Mozes
- Newark & Sherwood District Council
- North Kesteven District Council
- North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit
- North West Leicestershire District Council
- Northampton Borough Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Prologis
- Rutland County Council
- South Holland District Council
- South Kesteven District Council
- South Northamptonshire Council
- Stratford-on-Avon District Council
- University of Warwick
- Warwick District Council
- Wattify Limited

4 | SESSION ONE: INTRODUCING WPD

The first presentation of the day outlined WPD's role as a Distribution Network Operator (DNO), the implications of its transition to Distribution System Operator (DSO) and its approach to working on a regional level. In addition to outlining the business planning process, the presenters updated stakeholders on WPD's response to Covid-19.

Stakeholders were also asked to give feedback on WPD's draft outputs on network reliability and resilience, which included a 12-hour target for restoring customer supply, the installation of flood defences and the reduction of tree-related faults.

The majority of stakeholders represented local authorities, most of whom had come to the workshop to discuss their local issues and ambitions. Many referred to planned growth and Local Plans, including local energy plans and Lincolnshire County Council's 'green master plan', and were keen to discuss WPD's infrastructure and its role in enabling future demand to be met, particularly with regard to new connections, renewable schemes and electric vehicles. Stakeholders were also interested in discussing broader issues such as low-carbon technologies to inform their work going forward.

There was widespread interest in low-carbon technologies and the path to achieving Net Zero, with stakeholders alluding to projects involving electric vehicles and low-carbon generation. Several stakeholders also wished to explore the topic of community energy, often stressing that greater grid capacity was needed to support renewable generation. Capacity was also seen as an issue for electric vehicle charging points, particularly in rural areas. It was also noted that increased capacity would help to bolster the area's economy by providing charging points for tourists visiting the east coast.

Stakeholders across different industries reported that Covid-19 had changed their working practices, from the move to homeworking and online meetings to stricter support measures for operational personnel. With regard to planning, although some had seen a decline in applications or experienced delays, the consensus seemed to be that house building was picking up. An electric car club reported that Covid-19 had resulted in delays to network upgrades, impacting their plans for new chargers, while a stakeholder at the Lincolnshire workshop noted that EV charging at caravan sites has been in high demand.

It was felt that the strain placed on the network during lockdown highlighted the need for upgrades to facilitate future changes to the network and aid the green recovery. Stakeholders in Bassetlaw, in particular, expressed an interest in partnering with WPD in the green recovery, calling for network upgrades that would enable local participation in future projects.

With regard to WPD's outputs around network reliability and resilience, stakeholders generally approved of the 12-hour restoration target, although some were in favour of a more ambitious target given the rise in homeworking and people's increasing reliance on electricity. Resilience to floods was a particular concern in Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield, with stakeholders advocating better planning, a clear logistical approach to restoring the network after flooding and more input from experts. Stakeholders highlighted the rise in tree planting projects in response to climate change and were keen to engage with WPD to ensure that these schemes take the company's assets and plans into account. There were also calls for WPD to gather input from residents on its outputs, take account of environmental and ecological considerations when trimming trees and encourage a local approach to customer-based resilience.

1. WHY HAVE YOU ATTENDED TODAY?

“I’m interested in future energy scenarios.”
Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“I’m interested in ensuring there are adequate power supplies for existing residents and businesses. I am really interested in how we will bring all this together to ensure that the low-carbon forms of generation that are popping up all over Lincolnshire are brought into the mix.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“From an industry basis, I am very interested in how quickly there will be sufficient infrastructure for charging EVs. The industry is heading that way, but the infrastructure just isn’t there to support it.”
Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“I want to discuss connections issues, as we have some major developments that have encountered issues. EVs in smaller villages have capacity issues, and I would like to discuss this too.”
Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“The visitor economy is an issue, particularly charging points on the east coast for tourists. Some major housing developments are coming up, so I’m worried about capacity.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“We’re currently updating the Local Plan; we want to ensure we’re linking it into WPD’s work.”
Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“We’re drafting the green master plan, supporting the Lincolnshire region to achieve the Net Zero 2050 target.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“Develop working relationships, local energy plans and scenarios. We need a whole system approach to Net Zero.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“We’re specialists in urban electrification, that is, clean, smart and low-carbon technologies. We’re involved in the West Midlands RESO (Regional Energy Systems Operator) project. I support this with network data and represent WPD for this project.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I’m an electrical design engineer. I’m here to learn about plans and WPD’s insights into LCTs. The university I work for is looking to be more self-reliant.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I’m interested in rural customers.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I work for a utilities consultancy company. My role is to design infrastructure to help the city develop. I’m here to get an insight into WPD’s infrastructure work.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I’m keen to learn about low-carbon activities under way in support of Net Zero.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“We are interested in carbon neutrality, EV for our own fleet and the community. We’re also bringing in things such as retrofitting. As a generator, we are developing a solar farm near Quorn, so advice on that would be great.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“We want to move to operational low carbon, and we are also reviewing our Local Plan. So, we’re just looking at how we can make things more carbon neutral that way.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“Principally I’m here to talk about things around growth. We have an updated Local Plan, so really I’d like to discuss infrastructure to support growth.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I’m very interested in the new housing developments taking place in and around Hucknall. I’m also very interested in some of the other outputs you discussed, such as tree cutting and whether the council can help.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I’m interested in the green recovery and what that looks like for Bassetlaw, as well as community energy and how that can play a role in somewhere like Bassetlaw. We just had a 200-acre solar farm approved between two villages, so there’s a lot of activity happening in the energy space where we are.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I’m here because I want to hear about the improvements that can be made to the grid in Nottingham in order to beef it up and about flexible services that can be introduced to decrease carbon outputs.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I’m the Council Leader in Bassetlaw. I’m mainly here to try and find ways to improve the resilience of the grid in our part of the world, as it is very creaky at the moment. There is huge potential for renewable schemes, but sadly there is no capacity at the moment.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

2. WHAT HAS CHANGED FOR YOU IN LIGHT OF COVID-19 THAT WE NEED TO CONSIDER? AND HOW CAN WE SUPPORT YOU WITH THE GREEN RECOVERY?

“Caravan sites and EV charging. We’ve not had a spare slot this year at all, which is unheard of. It’s been extremely busy.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“We’re still working from home, and there are very limited numbers in the office.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“It’s difficult as things are changing so quickly at the moment with Covid. There needs to be a cohesive strategy at the government and regulatory level as people don’t want to feel like they’re being experimented on.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“We have four large buildings on the way at the moment. There was a slight pause at the beginning of the lockdown when a decision hadn’t been made as to whether it was sensible to continue construction work. We gave our construction team time to plan properly in terms of social distancing. This helped massively. We had one building delayed because we couldn’t have the power on. The challenge for us was getting buildings completed and handing them over. We are back to 100% capacity on site, but our suppliers / distributors have to go through more in terms of welfare and support.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“It’s too early to say about the impact of the coronavirus; it will definitely bring changes, but we just don’t know what they are yet.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“There’s been a significant reduction in applications coming through. Most local house building is now picking up again to levels they were at before.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We have still made big decisions during the period. I am not aware of there being a big drop-off in applications coming in.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We have turned off the coal-fired power stations and have huge swathes of space available for green energy regeneration. Covid-19 has not triggered any additional energy needs, but we found that our substations were strained or failed over lockdown, knocking out the power in whole streets as a result. They need to be upgraded so that they are ready for the future overhauls of the network to come.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We run an electric car club in Nottingham called Enterprise Cars, which aims to encourage wider use of EVs among the local community. Sadly, this had been slowed down due to Covid, as upgrades to the network for chargers have been delayed. This means that we are stuck with slow chargers and that increases the turnaround time for charging the vehicles.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We’re still waiting for the white paper. Our planners are building and planning for over and above what we are expecting.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We’ve seen delays on housing so where we have passed information to you there’s been an impact and some developers have pushed back six months.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“Bassetlaw could be part of the solution for this country’s energy dilemmas, if our network could be upgraded to be able to cope with future energy schemes.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I would be happy to see more battery storage and we have space for it here in Bassetlaw.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“Existing facilities could be upgraded to support low-carbon technologies in a more localised way.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

3. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE OUTPUTS STAKEHOLDERS HAVE SUGGESTED WE DELIVER AROUND NETWORK RELIABILITY AND RESILIENCE?

“Our members are interested in tree planting and the benefits of that for the climate, but that brings into consideration planning and the work you do with electricity. If we do any major schemes going forward, what should we take into consideration?”

Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“How are you approaching ash dieback? What is the policy there, as there is a possibility of damaging the lines? Ash dieback is causing trees to be susceptible to falling over and branches falling off. This is particularly an issue across Lincolnshire, from a highways perspective.”

Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“There is a greater demand in the summer for tourism, but what about the impact on locals?”

Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“It would be important to get more input from actual residents in addition to other stakeholder groups.”

Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I was quite interested in the 12-hour target and whether it had changed over Covid. Obviously, nowadays we are very reliant on the home connection, so I wondered if anything had happened in terms of decreasing that.”

Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“We need a discussion on resilience concentrated on tree trimming, the environment and ecology.”

Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“Local authorities are promoting and supporting an increase in tree planting and we wanted to ensure that WPD is aware of this. WPD should be interacting with landowners and local authorities to ensure that trimming work is mindful of ecology, avoiding nesting seasons and replacing bat boxes.”

Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“WPD are very good, especially by continuing to focus on restoring customer supply within 12 hours.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“Flood defences are an incredible challenge. Flood areas change and 1 in 100 years incidents are becoming more frequent. Clearly this is more important, and it would be good to anticipate events using other expert advice.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“It would be good to add an output about improving information to help us anticipate severe weather events which might cause flooding.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I think that they’re the kind of outputs that you would expect. However, they don’t tell you how network resilience will develop as the load increases in future.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“There was a lot of flooding in Worksop town centre last winter, meaning that a number of substations were knocked out and there were power cuts in a number of homes. Getting them back on was a challenge due to the positioning of meters in cellars and the logistics of reprogramming the network. If there was a programme that could be rolled out to resolve these reprogramming issues, that would be great.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“WPD needs to think about customer-based resilience too and put in place solutions that resonate with local communities and their specific needs. There needs to be more fine-tuning on that level to help them.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I’m wondering whether there will be any overheating issues on the grid assets, such as substations, as the temperatures rise? This is the hottest year on record after all. It is worth planning ahead for situations like this.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

5 | SESSION TWO: SUPPORTING THE GROWTH AGENDA

The presenters outlined WPD's Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES), its approach to engagement and explained some of the company's draft outputs around community energy and connections. At the subsequent breakout room discussions, stakeholders were asked to give details of their own local growth plans and consider WPD's approach to supporting the growth agenda.

During the discussions, a number of stakeholders reported positive experiences of DFES engagement with WPD. This was reflected in the event survey, as no stakeholders opted for 'poor' or 'very poor' to describe their experience of DFES engagement. The appetite for closer collaboration with WPD was not limited to local authorities. Stakeholders from a range of sectors, including universities and community energy groups, were keen to step up their engagement with the company. Indeed, across the three East Midlands workshops, all survey respondents but one indicated that they would be willing to engage more with WPD.

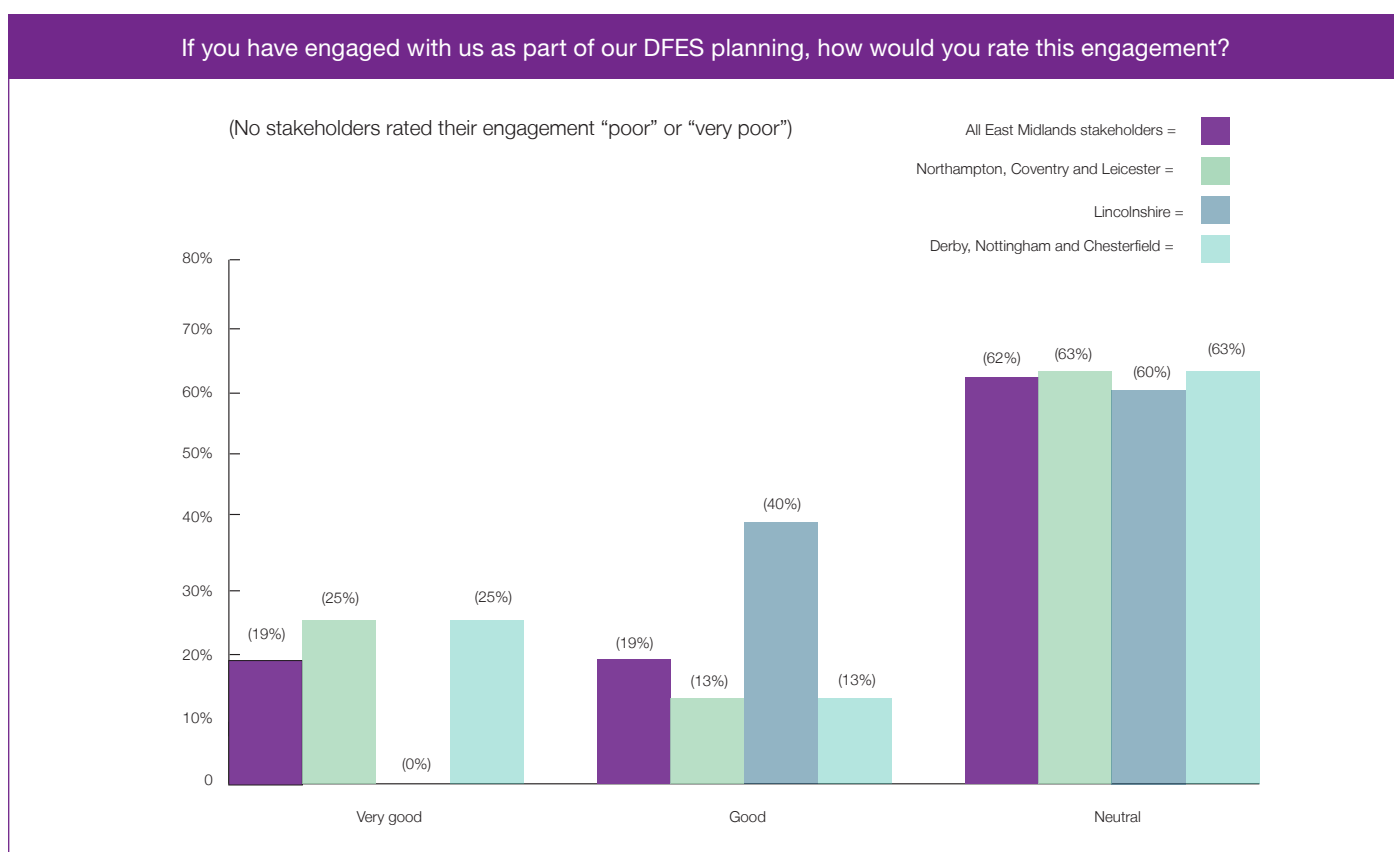
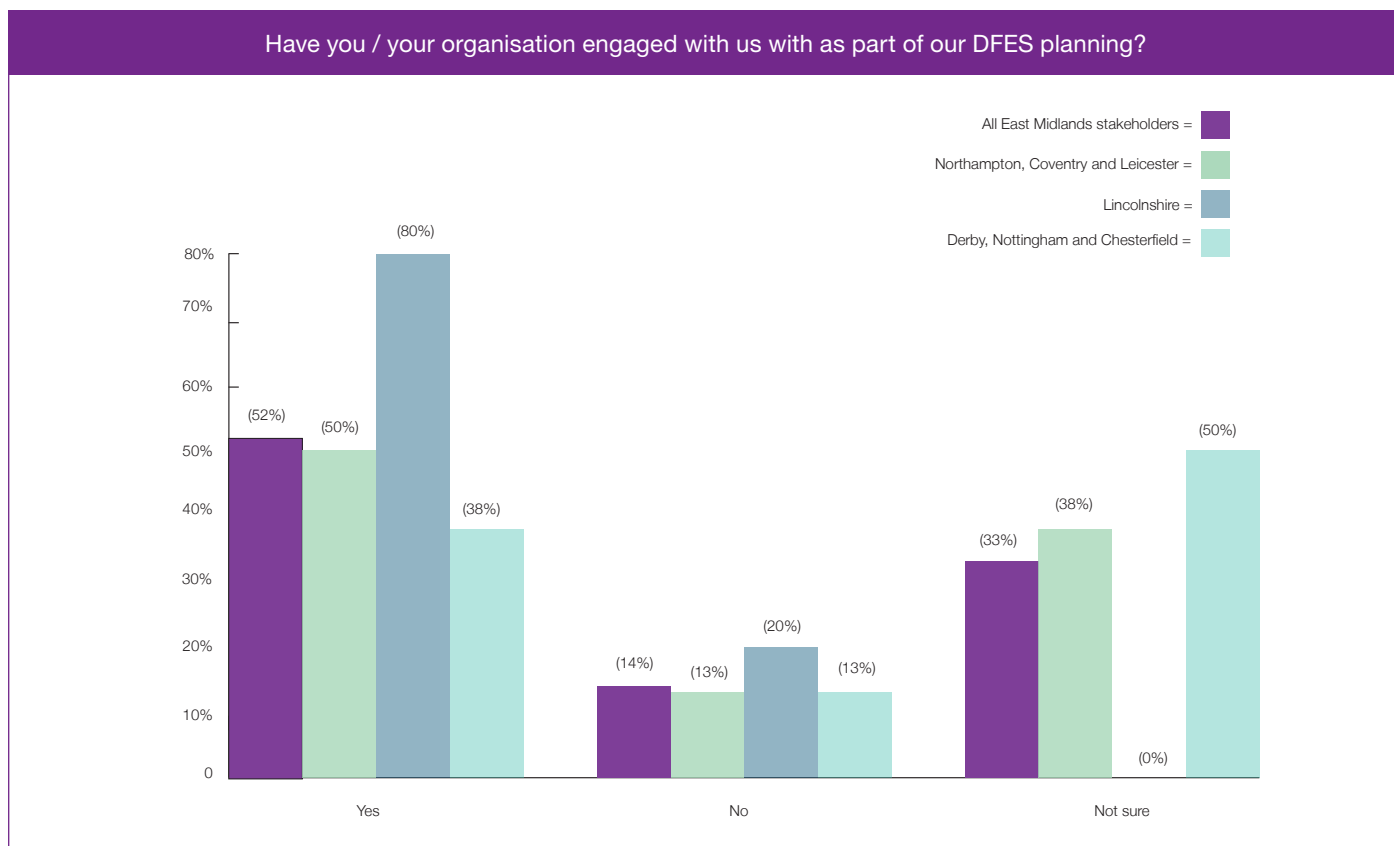
Stakeholders gave a number of suggestions as to how the company could go further to support the growth agenda, for example, by taking into consideration the impact of new planning regulations, as detailed in the recent government white paper, and demand for new technologies on existing plans and future growth, as well as adopting an 'open-door' approach when engaging with councils on available capacity. WPD was also advised to cast its net wider when engaging with stakeholders by working with organisations such as local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), growth plan committees, developers, local officers and policy makers.

In general, stakeholders reported that there had been little evidence of a slowdown to housebuilding in the wake of Covid-19, although many agreed that it had contributed to a wider sense of uncertainty fuelled by factors such as the economy, market uptake and government policy. The event survey indicated that stakeholders are completely split as to whether Covid-19 will delay developments coming forward, with 33% saying it would, 38% saying it would not and 29% feeling unsure. WPD was informed of several plans for new housing, some of which would incorporate solar panels or electric vehicle charging points. However, some local authorities had decided against installing low-carbon technologies in new housing developments owing to factors such as cost or capacity. Other growth plans involved large-scale solar farms and electrical vehicle charge points in town centres.

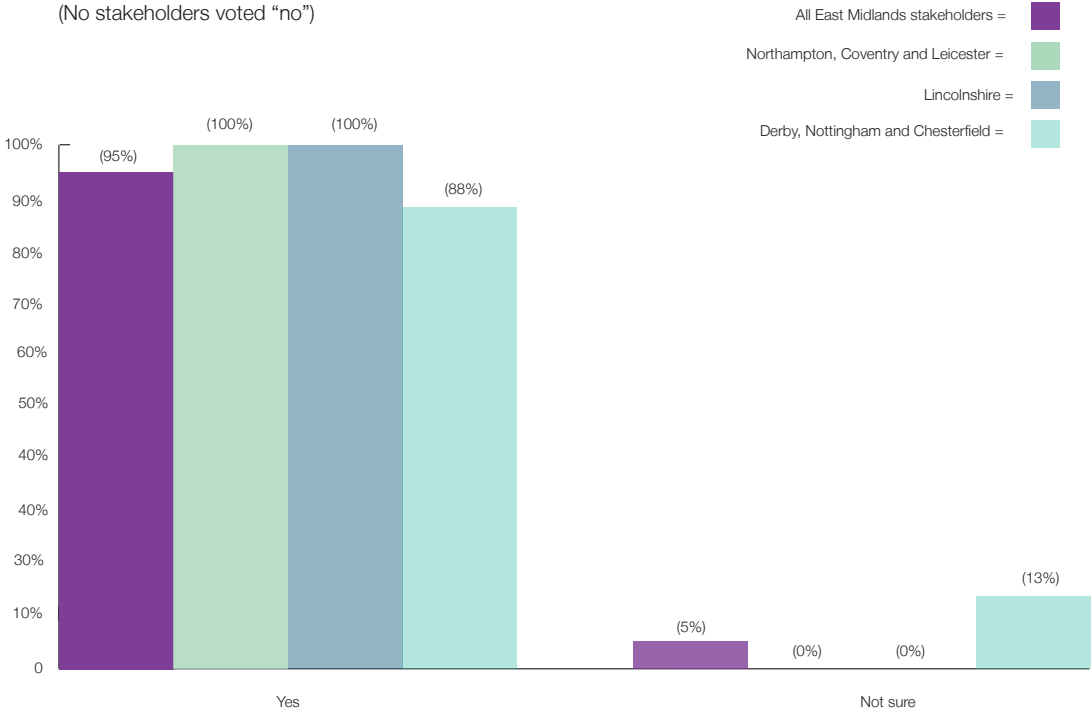
There was overwhelming agreement that community energy would have an important role to play in the future, with communities standing to benefit from greater control over energy flows and costs. However, it was acknowledged that community energy groups face certain obstacles when embarking on a project, and the round-table discussions yielded a number of suggestions as to how WPD could go further in its support of these groups. Proposals included helping groups to demonstrate viability and carry out feasibility studies, appointing a WPD representative to respond to community energy enquiries and lobbying for change to regulation. WPD's proposal for a dedicated community engineer in each licence area was seen as an effective way to enable communities to benefit from the company's expertise.

Stakeholders generally agreed that the draft outputs around community energy and connections were correct. The output around pre-application information clearly resonated with stakeholders and there was an appetite for early engagement and transparency, partly because navigating community energy projects could be a daunting and complex process. With this in mind, it was felt that WPD could do more to support community energy groups by sharing case studies, perhaps via an online community energy hub, and providing advice on funding routes. There was widespread support for WPD's aim to engage with local authorities, particularly given their community links, with one stakeholder suggesting that WPD engage with local policy planning managers. Likewise, stakeholders welcomed WPD's plans to engage with LEPs, as they have a good understanding of local connections.

1A. DO YOU AGREE WITH OUR APPROACH TO DFES ENGAGEMENT? IS THERE MORE WE SHOULD BE DOING?



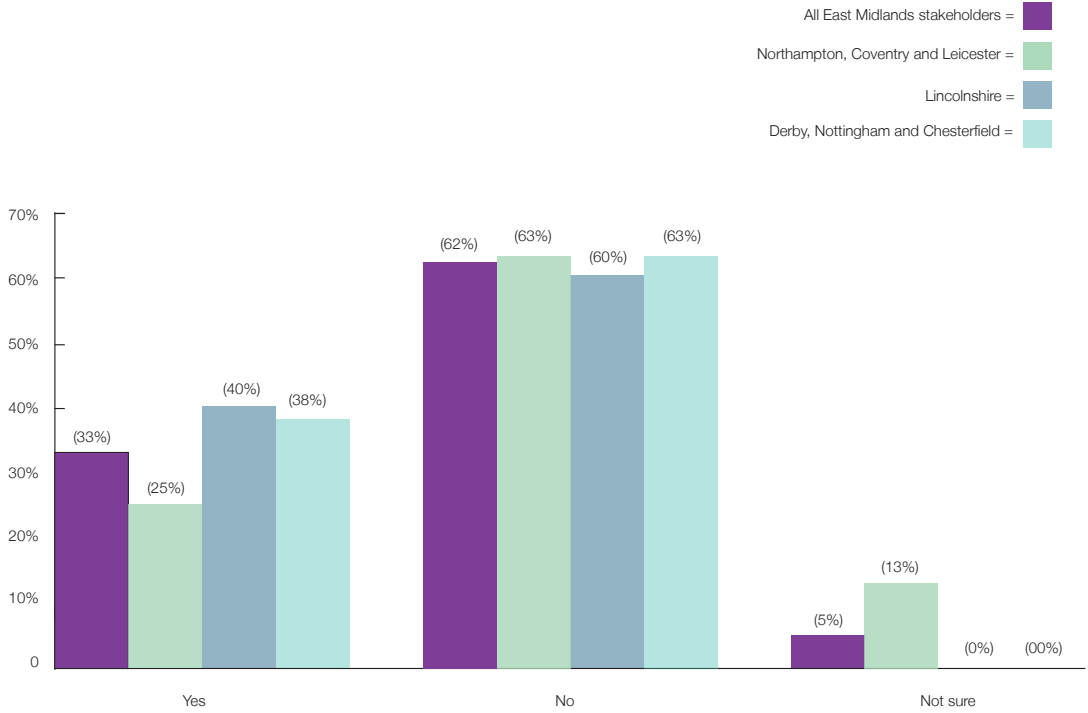
Would you be willing to engage with us more?



Survey comments:

“Yes, in principle – although it is unclear about who on the local authority side would take the lead on this at the present time.”

Have you heard of our Energy Data Hub?



“You need to keep an eye on the prices of EVs, heat pumps and batteries. If the price drops suddenly and everyone piles in, you will notice a big change in electricity demand. From a planning point of view, customer demand could change suddenly and then what you planned for doesn’t happen.”

Boston Borough Council

“I’ve had a number of interactions with WPD, and they’ve always been really useful. You can’t always deliver exactly what we want when we want, but as a general process I think the interaction recently has been the best it’s ever been.”

South Holland District Council

“I’ve been involved with DFES for some years. It’s a great impact analysis and it looks at the current trajectories. It works in terms of what’s permissible based on hard commitments from local areas. The challenge is that local planning doesn’t work like that. WPD need to be far more engaged with residents and must consider how to invest. It’s a very different approach. We need more harmonisation for a cleaner and more sustainable future.”

Wattify Limited

“We welcome this strategy. We’d love to meet with WPD and discuss our goals and aspirations. We’re looking at the mix of energy on our campus and how we improve that. We’re doing a smart trial which is all about efficiency and energy consumption. We must have dispatchable equipment on site that we can turn on and off.”

University of Warwick

“Everything needs to be integrated. Some areas are dedicated to housing / industrial development. I’m wondering whether new planning regulations will have an impact on existing plans.”

Warwick District Council

“Have there been any alternative scenarios tested with shorter targets than the government’s 2050 target for going carbon neutral? Lots of councils are being far more ambitious than our national government.”

Extinction Rebellion

“Extinction Rebellion is very concerned about the amount of investment going into the East Midlands. WPD really needs to make sure that it invests sufficiently in Nottingham, not just because of all of the innovation projects happening there, but also because of the widespread uptake in heat pumps, EVs and other innovative schemes there.”

Extinction Rebellion

“We’ve got an officer in the council that has regular meetings with WPD. It’s essential that we get to know what is happening.”

Ashfield District Council

“I think the piece that needs to be thought about firstly is how that conversation supports everything else that’s happening now, especially with Covid-19. I wonder whether it’s the green recovery angle that really needs to be driven home to get people to come to the table.”

Bassetlaw District Council

“I like the DFES approach as it’s a technical prediction and a refined process.”

Bolsover District Council

“I think that it was difficult early on to engage with WPD while we were putting together our plan. We found it hard to get through to the right people in order to find out about potential capacity at various sites. We would like to see a more open-door approach.”

Broxtowe Borough Council

1B. ARE THERE ANY OTHER STAKEHOLDERS WHICH WPD SHOULD BE ENGAGING WITH?

“I was thinking it would be good to have a link with the LEP.” **Harborough District Council**

“I was going to highlight that there are other types of networks meeting within the county. I just wondered whether some of those existing networks (different committees for different growth plans) may help to engage with a lot of people in one go and look at those individual issues.”

Leicestershire County Council

“It might be wise to talk to the chief executive or leader of the council. They would be very interested, especially in what was said about investment in Long Eaton town centre and bringing in EV charging points.” **Erewash Borough Council**

“People don’t realise the time lag that has to take place in the electricity world, particularly developers. We need to educate people, particularly smaller developers, on the sort of time it takes to provide the energy supply.” **South Kesteven District Council**

“It’s about having that constant dialogue with the planning authority and the developers as well. Things change so quickly, as do people in organisations, so it’s about having that constant sharing of information.” **City of Lincoln Council**

“I think what might be useful for us is specific discussion around the potential for future generation. Our customers tend not to be generators for export; it’s more about self-generation to balance demand and reducing the impact on the network. At the moment we are managing that process at a development-level scale. But it wouldn’t hurt to have a bi-annual update with WPD and do it that way.” **Prologis**

“As a rule of thumb, CEOs are running at 100 miles per hour on a number of things. WPD would be better off talking to a local officer operating at a granular level.” **Bassetlaw District Council**

“Planning policy does play an important role in future-proofing communities, so that kind of engagement is something that needs to be considered.” **Broxtowe Borough Council**

“The big issue is that we’ve got to get together on this and look at all possible alternatives and people we can talk to. We have a lot of meetings with groups that would be very interested in the work you are proposing. I’m going to make sure that further meetings are put forward on this and we do generally get a meeting together with these organisations.” **Ashfield District Council**

2A. WHAT ARE YOUR GROWTH PLANS (INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, DOMESTIC)?

“I work on the West Midlands Regional Energy System Operator (RESO) project; it looks 10 years down the line so it’s hard to read much into that. Things aren’t set in stone and targets can be quite ambitious.” **University of Warwick**

“We adopted our local plan last year. We have two significant areas of growth. One with 3,000 new dwellings. Then the eastern side of Leicester has 12,000 new dwellings. In Market Harborough, we have about 500 / 600 new dwellings, so that’s smaller scale.” **Harborough District Council**

“There were discussions about battery storage some time ago, but I am not personally aware of whether anything’s actively come of those discussions.” **Warwick District Council**

“What I’m concerned about is with us being a very small council, we started the climate action plan, but it hasn’t been that effective. We have this big development at St George’s Barracks that has more or less stalled because it had to be put into the local plan. We don’t have the capacity to build charging points or to put PV installations in or wind turbines because we’ve got to get it back onto the national grid. I am very interested in battery storage and equalising the national grid.” **Rutland County Council**

“The demand for housing near the M1 is high, so all local authorities are building.” **Bolsover District Council**

“The council is seeing renewed interest in solar farms and renewable generation. Very large-scale solar farm plants are coming up for planning permission.” **South Northamptonshire Council**

“Corby is one of the fastest growing areas in the UK. It’s an energy-demanding, growing town and I would like to see that mitigated with renewables. This has been difficult to achieve.”

South Northamptonshire Council

“We are working on one of 14 named garden villages. Standalone development of 1,500 dwellings has not yet been approved, but it will be heavily reliant on solar and aims to be a self-contained development.”

North Northampton Joint Planning and Delivery Unit

“We have major developments happening in the city. We are taking on board affordable housing, EVs, etc., and we want to make sure we have the capacity required for any developments going forward.”

City of Lincoln Council

“We recently put in a bid for the redevelopment of Long Eaton town centre, and if it’s successful, we’re hoping for more EV charge points throughout Long Eaton.”

Erewash Borough Council

“We’re building 6,500 houses in Bassetlaw by 2037. There’s going to be a significant increase in demand for electricity during that time. The problem in Bassetlaw is that housing isn’t particularly expensive, so if we put a lot of low-carbon technology demands on the developer and they cap out, it becomes unattractive to invest. For our garden village, I suspect we will try and make it a village of the future, but not for the small developments happening around the villages and in the towns.”

Bassetlaw District Council

“I have seen outline proposals for urban extensions in the Bassetlaw area.”

Bassetlaw District Council

“On Nottingham Road in Hucknall, there is going to be 400 houses. At the Rolls-Royce site, there are going to be 900 houses there. There are 50 properties on Watnall Road that have all got to be affordable, and so on. They’ve already gone on to the land to start preparing for that. Bestwood Village has 600 houses proposed there. We are now checking derelict garage sites; there will be a lot of proposals for those. Those areas will need upgrading for facilities with electricity. There’s also going to be investment happening in our two town centres using money from the government. I’m pushing for properties being required to have a charging point. We have to start working closely with WPD to make sure this happens.”

Ashfield District Council

“We have been looking at a place called Stanton, which has got a few issues with contaminated land so we are unsure if we can develop it at the moment. 50-60 houses are being built just off Bennett Street, and there’s also a proposal to build 900 houses near Trent Lock in Sawley.”

Erewash Borough Council

“We’ve got the garden village, but going back to power stations, we have big sites which will potentially absorb a lot of housing. Clearly at the moment they’ve got significant infrastructure going towards those sites, but there’s a broader question about whether it’s the right infrastructure for whatever happens on those sites moving forward. WPD need to work with local authorities early, because if we’re not careful we could end up removing the infrastructure that is already there in those sites.”

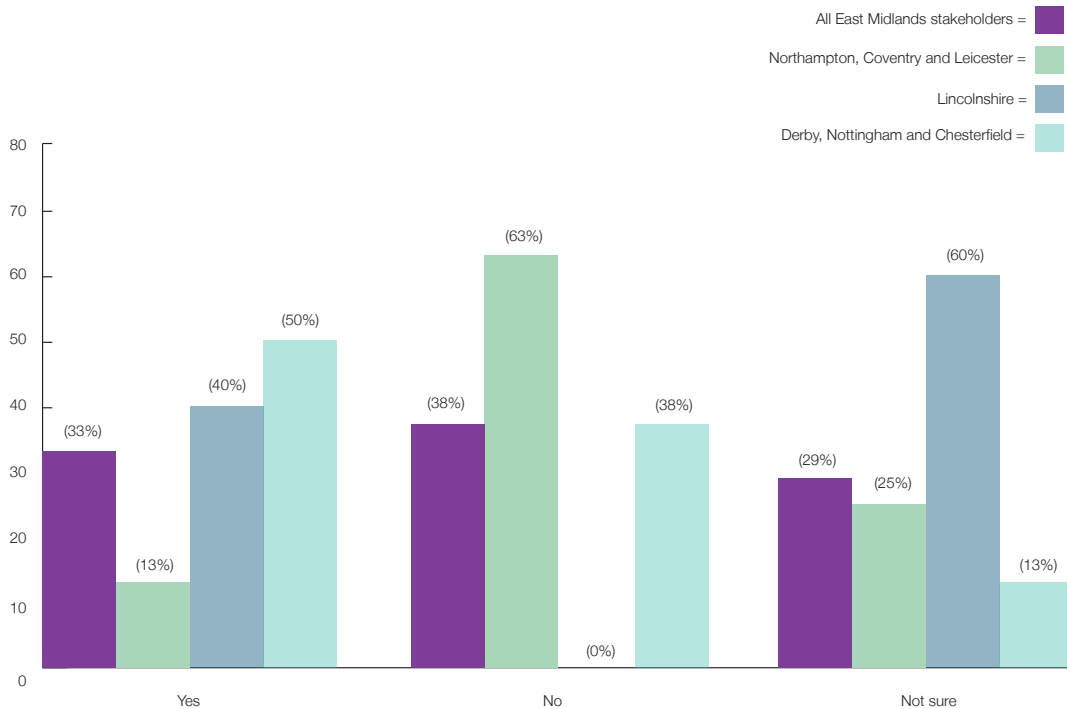
Bassetlaw District Council

“Our planning department is busier than ever. We delivered more dwellings than targeted last year. The government’s white paper has suggested that there should be more development in rural areas.”

North Kesteven District Council

2B. DO YOU EXPECT DELAYS TO THE VOLUMES YOU ARE PREDICTING AS A RESULT OF COVID-19?

Do you expect delays to the volumes of industrial / commercial / domestic developments you are predicting as a result of Covid-19?



Survey comments:

“Financial constraints may delay some projects.”

“The feedback from housing developers shows a trajectory that will deliver fewer dwellings in the next 12 months but there is confidence in a recovery with rates in year 3 being at pre-Covid levels. We will be reviewing completions and revising our housing delivery assumptions accordingly. This information will be published and can be made available.”

“In terms of planning applications, we haven’t seen any reduction. I think we might be unusual in that. We have surveyed our key housebuilders locally and largely they’re not feeling any losses. We’re not expecting a housing reduction. But we are very aware that the furlough scheme is finishing soon, so it could be possible that we start to see a change then.”

Northampton Borough Council

“There will still be a statutory obligation to build houses, but there may not be the market uptake. The statistics could be misleading when it comes to the reality of the picture.”

Bassetlaw District Council

“We haven’t noticed much of a delay to our growth plans due to Covid and I feel that it is too early to say how the long-term picture will look.”

Broxtowe Borough Council

“If you look at the construction statistics for North Nottinghamshire, there has been no slowdown despite the impact of Covid. It’s difficult to anticipate whether there will be a downturn long term, but my instinct is that it will slow down if there is a major sustained slump in the economy.”

Bassetlaw District Council

“There’s a lot of uncertainty about how many houses will be constructed, as it’s down to government policy.”

Broxtowe Borough Council

“The demand is still there, but the type is changing. For example, home offices are needed now. What the houses need to deliver is different.”

Lincolnshire County Council

3. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE OUTPUTS STAKEHOLDERS HAVE SUGGESTED WE DELIVER AROUND CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY ENERGY?

“Costs are vitally important. It’s reassuring that we can reserve capacity. When we’re given funding, a lot goes on utilities. We’ve had to scale back projects due to utility costs. It’s positive you’re addressing that.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“I think they’re all good. There is a need for joined-up planning.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“Having conversations early would be helpful.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I think it is hard getting off the ground. We’ve got a project that is going on in our district with a local parish council, so when you have a dedicated person it is useful. There are a couple of community energy hubs in Leicester who I’m sure would be keen to link up. We can then share the information amongst communities and parishes so that everyone is of the same understanding.”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“I’d say that the outputs look good. When it comes to engagement with local authorities, this has to be at the right level and done in the right way.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I would like case studies to demonstrate how WPD have helped community energy groups. RIIO is to 2028 and the government is consulting on a zone-based system, which could mess up the model in terms of trying to predict council growth.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“WPD needs to engage with local policy planning managers in order to develop the most appropriate outputs.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I think that hand-holding support and expertise is really needed at the moment as it’s very confusing for us. We are still getting our head round solar panels on roofs. There’s still a lack of understanding around them. It’s about knowing that it can be done, and that others have been able to do it.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“As for activity around open data, I haven’t seen much on this. It’s not promoted locally, and this will be key to driving local flexibility in the future. It will help with the understanding of growth expectations. Data is paramount and needs to be available to all in way that is meaningful.” **Stakeholder, Lincolnshire**

“We need more funding for community energy projects. Could WPD help project owners to find funding pots for new schemes?”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“When talking about community energy, I would shift the focus slightly and look towards talking to local enterprise partnerships more, as they will understand what the outputs will need to be, meaning that you would get more concrete feedback. They will understand how the big picture looks on the ground for connections.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

4A. WHAT ROLE DO YOU THINK COMMUNITY ENERGY GROUPS CAN PLAY IN THE FUTURE? IS THERE ANYTHING MORE WE COULD DO TO SUPPORT IT?

“We could do with more clarity on connections, as they could help ease anxieties with community energy projects.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“RESO isn’t a community project as yet but it potentially could be. It’s a design project, but how it’s owned and developed is yet to be influenced.”

Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“Driving down costs is a key driver.”

Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“Heritage constraints must be considered. Fuel poverty can also be a driver.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“From a planning policy perspective, we need to show that projects from Community Energy groups are viable. When they are examined, we need to show that there will be capacity. It would be great to have a steer from WPD there.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“It would be sensible for WPD to set up a specific role for supporting enquiries for community energy in a substantial way.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We would like to set up a community battery and have access to operate it, but we are not permitted to do so at present. Could WPD lobby Ofgem to get regulations changed?”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“It would be great to share energy behind the meter on a community level, as this is the future. People don’t trust energy companies, but they generally trust their own communities. They would love to have the chance to control their own energy flows.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“All parish and town councils have a forum, so engaging with them on community energy would be good. The government white paper on devolution will give parish councils more responsibility.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“Can WPD do feasibility work and pay funding or grants to enable community energy groups to test out feasibility?”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“A hub on the website supported by other stakeholders would be beneficial; community energy schemes should be showcased online.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

4B. STAKEHOLDERS SUGGESTED WE COULD HAVE A DEDICATED COMMUNITY ENGINEER IN EACH OF OUR LICENCE AREAS – WOULD YOU SUPPORT THIS?

“It is really important to have a local Community Engineer so we could talk to local engineers and have some input during the process of neighbourhood planning.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“We don’t know how useful it could be right now, but maybe in the future.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“There’s no technology grant, so a Community Engineer would be very helpful. Having someone who could help us share the cost and reduce prices would be so useful when putting grids and technologies together.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“Appointing experts would be a fantastic suggestion.”

Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

6 | SESSION THREE: SUPPORTING THE TRANSITION TO NET ZERO

The third presentation outlined WPD's efforts to support the transition to Net Zero, including the use of low-carbon technologies (LCTs) such as electric vehicles and heat pumps, as well as efforts to minimise losses.

During the round-table discussion, stakeholders were asked about their organisation's targets for Net Zero and plans for low-carbon technologies. They were also asked to feed back on some of WPD's draft outputs around Net Zero and innovation.

Across the three events, some 57% of survey respondents had set a target date for reaching Net Zero. Most local authorities seemed to have more ambitious targets than the government's 2050 goal, with some aiming to achieve Net Zero by 2030 and, in one case, 2028. The survey revealed that 71% of local authorities across all three workshops had declared a climate emergency, rising to 88% of respondents at the Northampton, Coventry and Leicester workshop.

With regard to LCTs, electric vehicles seemed to be the focus of attention across the three workshops, with stakeholders referring to a number of existing or planned charging points at each event. Plans included installing charging points in car parks and new developments, moving to EV fleets and launching pooling schemes for electric vehicles. Plans for heat pump roll-out did not seem to be as advanced, and although the technology was being considered by a few organisations, a number of stakeholders either had no plans to deploy them or questioned their efficacy.

In addition, stakeholders at all three events discussed their plans for installing solar panels, both on new builds and as retrofits. However, as with other renewable projects, capacity, cost and viability were sometimes limiting factors. Other areas of focus for low-carbon technology included increasing energy efficiency in homes, while the use of storage and gas-powered buses was also raised.

Opinion was split as to whether Covid-19 would delay the adoption of LCTs. Some plans had experienced setbacks, while other projects had not been impacted at all. However, it was recognised that market demand for low-carbon technologies may shift following the rise in homeworking. A number of stakeholders pointed out that other factors, such as the public's mindset and government policy, would be just as likely to impact the uptake of LCTs.

WPD's draft outputs around Net Zero and innovation were generally seen to be appropriate, and the interactive 'ideas portal' was a popular suggestion at all three workshops. Stakeholders stressed that WPD needed to engage regularly with a broad range of stakeholders to facilitate innovation and the Net Zero transition, including community groups, developers and housebuilders. Some felt that WPD should go further by committing to lobby government and creating specific roles within the company to engage with stakeholders on innovation.

1A. WHAT ARE YOUR TARGETS FOR NET ZERO?

“We are reviewing our local plan covering central Lincolnshire. We have commissioned consultants recently to explore what options there are and whether it will be possible. In a month’s time we will have some indicative findings about how it may be deliverable. They are looking at specific areas around homes, transport and energy efficiency, so it will be useful to share those findings with WPD to maximise any opportunity.” **City of Lincoln Council**

“I believe our target is 2030 at present.”
Warwick District Council

“Our target is also 2030.” **University of Warwick**

“West Midlands Combined Authority has a combined target of 2041.” **Coventry City Council**

“Our target is Net Zero by 2028 and we are soon going to be tasked with putting together a supplementary planning document about how planning can achieve this.”
Broxtowe Borough Council

“We’ve set our own targets such as Net Zero by 2040. Alongside that, our Local Plan review is happening right now, and we are looking at opportunities to push the climate change agenda through. We do now have the strategic alliance with Boston, so as we go forward, we will look at things between the two authorities there.”

East Lindsey District Council

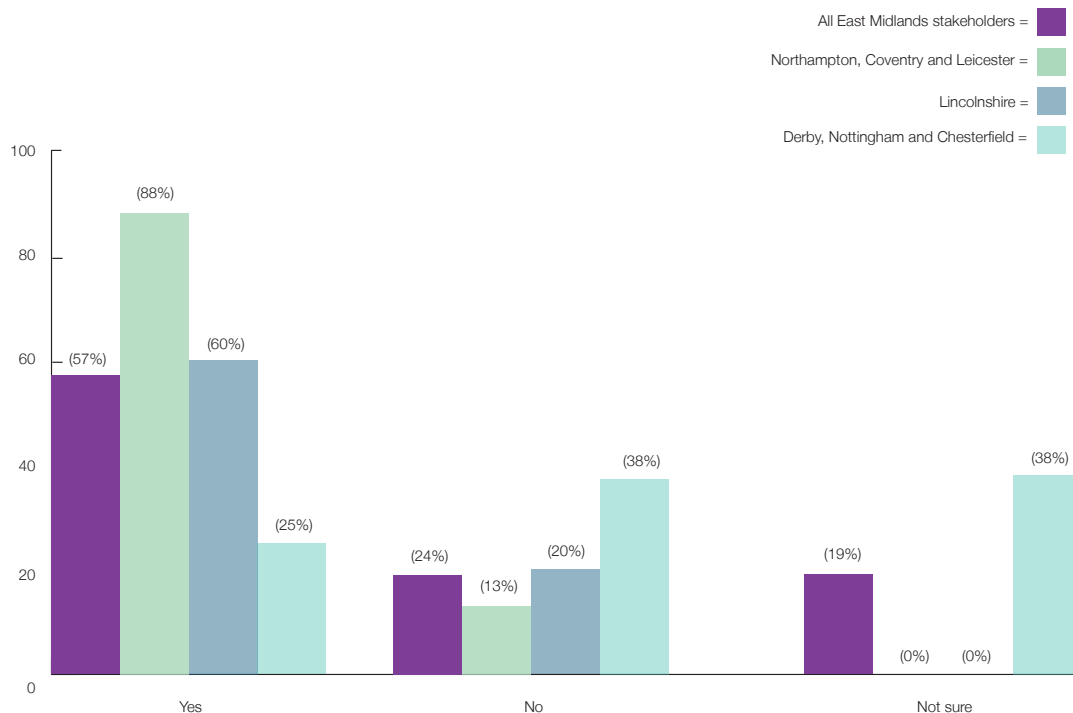
“We’ve put a target on ourselves as a local authority to be carbon neutral by 2025. This is with both our buildings and fleet. Then we plan to be carbon neutral in the district by 2030. This means we are moving ahead of the national picture. We are still evolving our plans to achieve that.”

Warwick District Council

“Our Net Zero target is 2030 and then the council’s target is 2050.” **Leicestershire County Council**

“We have made ambitious commitments to move ahead of the national programme.”
Warwick District Council

Has your local authority set a target date for reaching Net Zero?



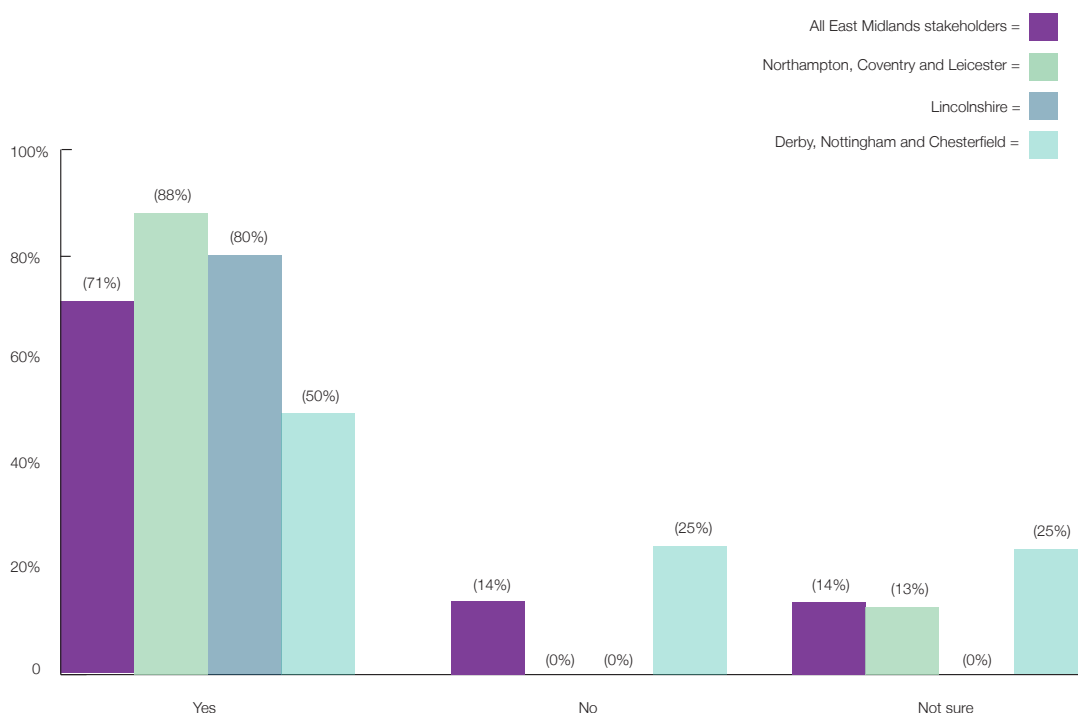
1B. HAS YOUR ORGANISATION DECLARED A CLIMATE EMERGENCY?

“Six out of eight local authorities in Northamptonshire have declared a climate emergency, with some aiming for 2030 and some for 2050. The county has declared 2050.” **Northampton Borough Council**

“Our targets are for 2030 and a climate emergency has been declared. It is at an early stage.” **Gedling Borough Council**

“Lots of councils in the local area have declared climate emergencies but have not done nearly enough to follow it up. I would say that Broxtowe is really leading the way on this front.” **Extinction Rebellion**

Has your local authority declared a climate emergency?



Survey comments:

“The North Northamptonshire Joint Planning and Delivery Unit is comprised of Corby, East Northamptonshire, Kettering and Wellingborough. Corby and Kettering have declared climate emergencies and the latter two have not.”

“I believe Corby and Kettering councils have [pledged 2030] but East Northamptonshire and Wellingborough have not. These councils will be replaced by one unitary council, North Northamptonshire, on 1 April 2021. The hope is that this new council will declare a climate emergency and an associated Net Zero target soon.”

2A. WHAT LOW-CARBON TECHNOLOGIES ARE YOU PLANNING TO USE AND HOW / WHEN WILL YOU BE ROLLING THESE OUT? (E.G. HEAT PUMPS, BATTERY STORAGE, ELECTRIC FLEETS, ETC.)

“Our councillors are interested in EVs and rolling out solar panels in a more comprehensive way. We haven’t developed a local energy strategy yet, but we’re looking to do that in the next couple of months. It would be great to work with you guys on that.”

South Kesteven District Council

“In Boston’s local plan, we don’t have any requirement for heat pumps fitted in new developments. We have a few comments about EV charge points but nothing rigorous.”

Boston Borough Council

“The problems we’ve had have been around the issue of viability. Our area is not high value, so the developers are not interested in heat pumps or solar panels.” **Boston Borough Council**

“It’s a bit sporadic in Lincoln with regard to EV charge points. We made a good effort six years ago when there were grants available. Going forward, it’s an area we want to look at more seriously, especially with our members’ new willingness to go carbon neutral. It’s about cost and viability. You need to provide the evidence behind decisions when it comes to planning.” **City of Lincoln Council**

“We are aware of businesses that are putting biomass boilers in, as well as businesses that want their own battery storage, solar panels and wind turbines. They come to us and ask about how they work with the council, WPD or anyone else interested in taking their power when they’re not using it. We need to understand how we can start to bring this all together.” **North Kesteven District Council**

“We have recently installed charge points in four towns. It remains to be seen how popular they will be, but we hope they will spur demand for more in different areas.” **South Kesteven District Council**

“We have electric fleet vehicles already. We’re looking at PV, wind and some battery storage which is dependent on vehicle-to-grid.”

University of Warwick

“We are doing a number of DIVE studies across the city to join up any design work that we do for new technologies with new ways of operating markets for energy, combined with ways and means of operating the system within an area. We’re looking at heat pump deployment as part of this. The RESO project allows for doing things in a more joined-up way.”

Wattify Limited

“The council office building are moving to a green electricity supplier. They’ve purchased two EVs for council business. Charging points are being placed in car parks. We’re bringing up the worst accommodation to C-level. A small development is being freed up for green housing.”

Warwick District Council

“The key areas of focus are with our own stock, but we’re also trying to work with communities, particularly around renewable energy, energy efficiency around homes and across Leicestershire where we could put in hubs with storage. Perhaps even putting on PV on roofs. One of the areas we’ve identified is the heat pump market. We haven’t got any stock of our own to retrofit, so it’s working with homeowners and the building market to enforce and guide this. In that sense, it’s more for our own buildings. I think decarbonising heating is the bigger issue rather than the electricity side of it.”

Harborough District Council

“We’re interested in delivering our own lower-carbon housing stock and our own EV fleet. Our first site has just got planning permission recently, but it is all evolving.” **Warwick District Council**

“We’re the county council, but we are looking into the possibility of changing our council-owned car parks into public charging access. We’ve already done stuff on our own fleet, including a salary sacrifice scheme to push EV vehicles. We’ve invested in solar on buildings. We have got a lot of building partnerships with developers and landowners and evolved plans for low-carbon design.”

Leicestershire District Council

“We have got our first development where we have managed to get them to install charging points (at McDonalds). All the BP garages are putting charging points in too. We have started to put charging points in council offices for an EV fleet. We have three EVs at the moment. I think we’ve got something like 20 vehicles in our fleet and they’ll eventually go over to electric vehicles. I’ve been told we have issues with capacity, which is an issue moving forward. St George’s Barracks are all going to have PV on the roofs. The only way we can seem to do it is with new developments.” **Rutland County Council**

“We have EV charging at our new office. As and when people change over, we will install more. Our influence is more on the buildings we create. At the moment we are putting ducting on car parking spaces so that EV chargers can be installed in the future.” **Prologis**

“Heat pumps are in the design of our housing. It is likely to emerge in the specification of the designs.” **Warwick District Council**

“We’re talking about heat pumps solving the problems of diverting from gas. A better way to solve the problem is to develop zero-carbon houses. It is possible to do so. On new houses the best way to go is zero carbon.” **Rutland County Council**

“We have not seen a demand or take-up of heat pumps in Northampton.” **South Northamptonshire Council**

“Commercial warehouse developments had requested renewables on the roof but were rejected as there was no capacity for generation. Our local authority planning department is really keen to see PV on all industrial units for green growth.” **South Northamptonshire Council**

“I believe that we already have some EVs in our fleet. On a planning level, working as part of a group of councils in the Greater Nottingham area, we are looking at the replacement of transport and utility fleets. Due to these pushes, we want to try and install new chargers.” **Broxtowe Borough Council**

“Nottingham is in a pretty advanced position and D2N2 has played a role in getting lots of EV chargers installed in the city. It is also considering pooling schemes involving EVs.” **Extinction Rebellion**

“Nottingham was talking about having electric buses, but they have not run as smoothly as had been hoped. Instead, gas-powered vehicles are being explored as options for buses and other heavier vehicles.” **Extinction Rebellion**

“Heat pumps are being discussed but will require funding from government grants.” **Extinction Rebellion**

“I’ve not heard of any heat pumps being proposed in our council, but you can be assured that after this meeting there will be some discussions taking place.” **Ashfield District Council**

“The extent to which heat pumps are forming an integrated part of planning for developments is questionable.” **Bassetlaw District Council**

“We’ve got EV charge points that have been put into car parks. We have also been talking about putting solar panels on council buildings, and having solar panels put into car parks. We’ve had discussions but it’s not formed part of any coherent plan just yet.” **Bassetlaw District Council**

“We have a number of EVs and we are trying to formulate a proposal to put more in all the time. We’ve had a lot of charge points put in already. The possibilities coming from partnership with WPD are huge. What we need is for the chief officers to have a meeting with WPD on all the possibilities and issues brought up today.” **Ashfield District Council**

“I’m part of the construction team that manages distribution centre construction. We are interested in operational carbon, putting PV on the roofs of our warehouses and the move towards EV. In time if we move towards EV HGVs, that will affect the carbon neutrality.” **Prologis**

2B. DO YOU PREDICT ANY DELAYS TO THE ADOPTION OF LCTS AS A RESULT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

“The housing market will change because of home offices. People will want to know the running costs of new homes are good, and they won’t want to pay extra for it. A mindset change is needed, but builders don’t share it yet. We need people to demand change.” **North Kesteven Council**

“Political pressure is needed. Regarding the Net Zero requirement from the government, we should be helping people to achieve this and provide the mechanisms to do so. Support for local action is needed. We need to work with DNOs, and plans need to be developed with a cost-benefit analysis. This will allow long-term investment.”
Boston Borough Council

“It’s hard to say what impact Covid will have on this. There is a question mark regarding whether funds will be available to councils.”

East Lindsey District Council

“We’ve got a draft action plan at the moment. Covid put a block on it.” **Harborough District Council**

“Covid is not going to slow things down, as we have been working at full pelt since lockdown started. Delays could come from the government being slow on the white paper. At the same time, the white paper could also result in radical changes to our projects, which could cause knockbacks.”

Broxtowe Borough Council

3. WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE OUTPUTS STAKEHOLDERS HAVE SUGGESTED WE DELIVER IN RELATION TO NET ZERO AND INNOVATION? DO THESE SEEM RIGHT?

“Regarding the ideas portal, yes, this applies to consumers too, not just local authorities and industry. Communities are made up of lots of components. Fuel poverty is an issue, for example.”
Stakeholder, Lincolnshire

“The engagement needs to be done at a community level.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“They look like good ideas, but you have to make sure everyone is aware of the proposals so that everyone can be involved and make suggestions.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“The concept of an ideas portal is exciting. We are going on to the net in a big way and making it easier for the general public to give us ideas, and also for us to tell them the possibilities and how we can help them. We can also work with organisations like WPD to improve things.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I think you could be more ambitious with your outputs, but I would also ask: what are you doing to make sure the government is recognising that the barrier to entry is too high? If they want to reach their own target, which they’ve set for 2050, they’re going to have to do something more ambitious.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“WPD should engage at the very least annually but as and when new technologies come forward, too.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“I like the ideas portal and new innovations or agendas to those meeting at these events could go on there.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“WPD should attend local-level things like developer forums at a local council.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

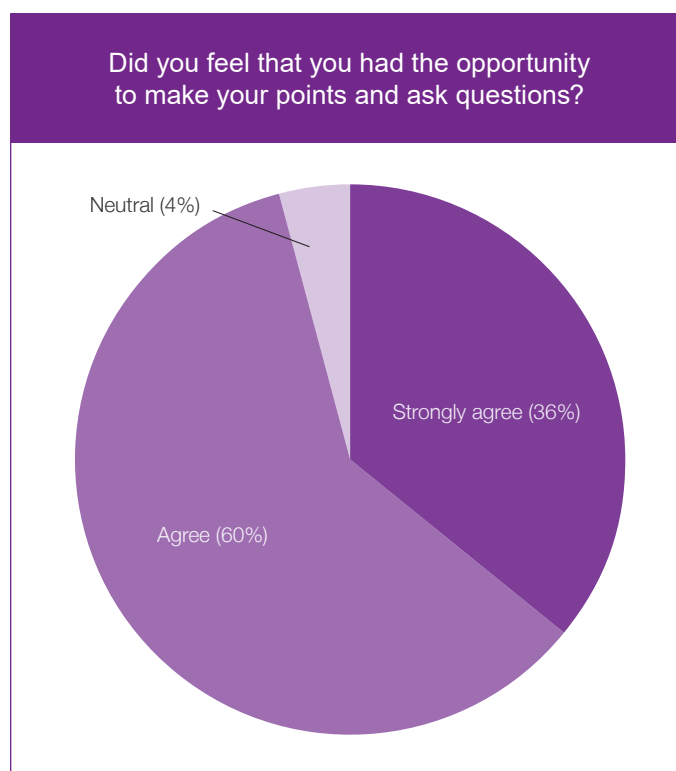
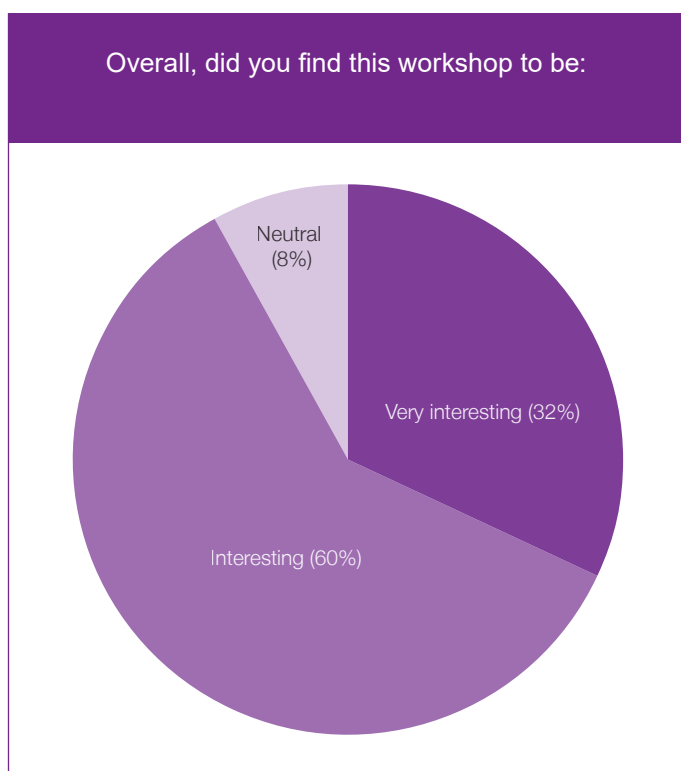
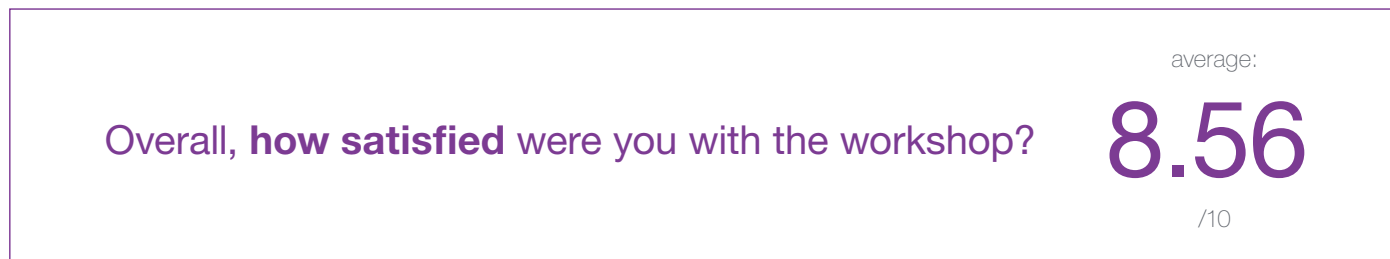
“What engagement is there with major housebuilders?”
Stakeholder, Northampton, Coventry and Leicester

“It would be great to have specific stakeholder engagement staff to talk to about innovation. Could WPD create a role for that?”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

“A lot of community groups are starting to get organised, so it would be great to give them regular support, which is why the engagement should occur on a more regular basis than once a year.”
Stakeholder, Derby, Nottingham and Chesterfield

7 | APPENDIX 1: EVENT FEEDBACK

After the workshop, stakeholders were asked to complete a short feedback form. The feedback was as follows:

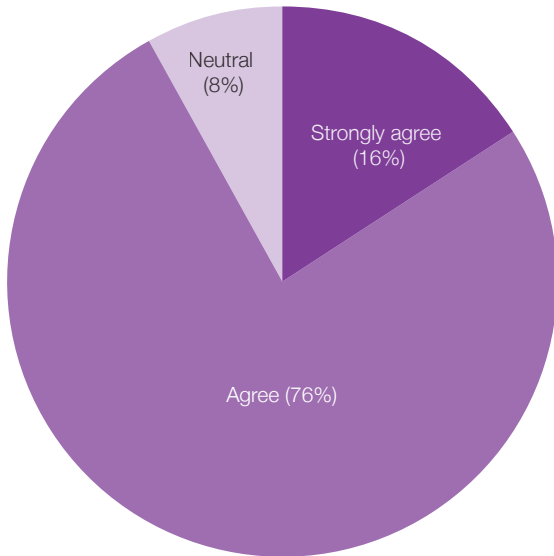


“Our facilitator was very good and made sure everyone was given an opportunity to engage, although I felt some additional time for more open discussion could have been helpful.”

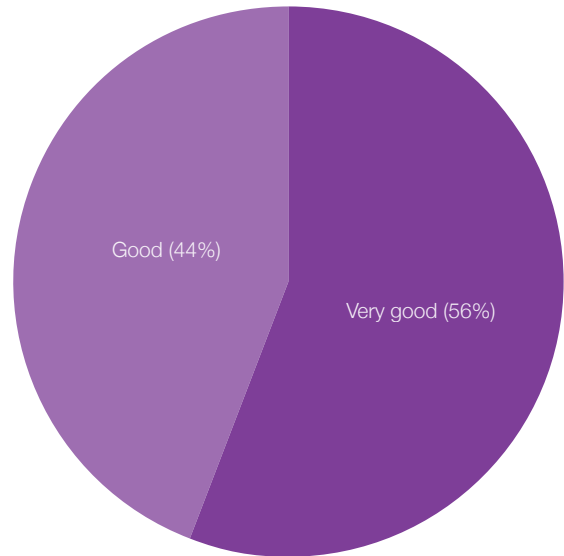
“There was a sense that it was a PR exercise alongside a consultation.”

“It would be useful to use the chat function a bit more.”

Did we cover the right topics for you on the day?



What did you think of the way the workshop was chaired by your facilitator?



“There was excellent discussion.”

“The workshop was a helpful overview and tried to convey some complex, technical and jargon-strewn topics to a mixed audience.”

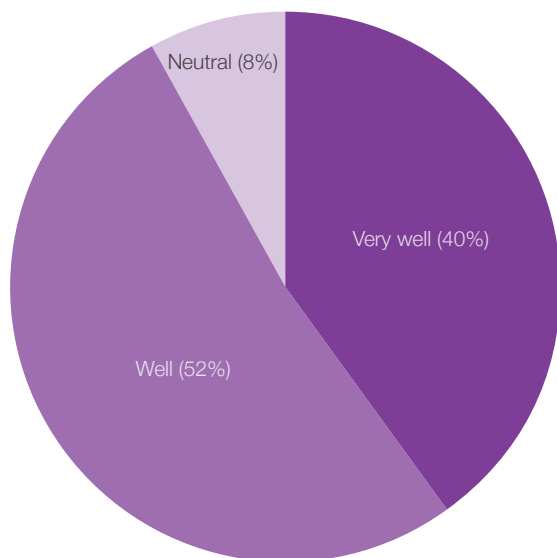
“The first presentation was less relevant to my role in a local authority.”

“I think that more is needed on joined-up energy planning.”

“The facilitator was calm and fair and managed the group effectively.”

“The facilitator went through all the main issues.”

How well do you think the online format worked?



“I thought it worked very smoothly and the transitions from the main group to the smaller groups worked well.”

“I think that all participants had their say.”

Any other comments?

“It was a good session and well facilitated. There was the right balance of information and interaction with a welcome break mid-point.”

“There were many issues brought forward that needed further investigation.”

“I thought the event was well managed and extremely professional. It covered a lot of ground, but I needed the basics. Having Peter White in our group was also excellent as he was able to respond to numerous technical questions raised by the group, so this felt very responsive and useful and he clearly has the skills and knowledge required to assist us. Thank you.”

“Beyond having shared future development data with WPD, it isn’t especially clear how much value these sessions add. More information on how the session feedback will be used, particularly from the breakout groups, would help inform expectations of the engagement process.”

“You needed a reasonable amount of energy experience to engage with the workshop. Something simpler is needed for communities to engage more meaningfully.”

8 | APPENDIX 2: OUTPUTS

NETWORK RELIABILITY & RESILIENCE

Volumes of faults will be no higher than in ED1 but in ED2 there will be a reduced impact on the customer.
Inspect, maintain and repair defects on our network in line with our policy.
Reduction of tree related faults on high voltage (HV) and extra high voltage (EHV) overhead networks due to use of LIDAR but in ED2 there will be a reduced impact on the customer.
Further improve our asset condition data to ensure we efficiently improve the health of our network.
Continue to focus on restoring supplies quickly and will continue to target achieving more than 85% of customers (that are not automatically restored) within one hour.
WPD will continue to focus on restoring customer supplies within 12 hours.
In ED2 we will complete a resilience clearance programme on the EHV network.
In ED2, we will continue to install further flood defences to reflect updated data from the Environment Agency.
Underground or divert overhead lines that are adjacent to or cross school playing areas.

CONNECTIONS & COMMUNITY ENERGY

Provide new connections quotations and energisation in line with customer requirements.
Provide our broadest range of pre-application information ever to support customers looking to connect to the network.
Engage with local authorities and local enterprise partnerships to understand their requirements for strategic investment in terms of changes in demand or network use.
Improve DNO/IDNO cross border working practices and promote competition in connections (to ensure that the consumer is best served under the process).
During ED2 the significance of Community Energy projects will be further enhanced, including the introduction of an annual call targeted especially at community groups and their representatives.
Have a dedicated Community Engineer in each of our licence areas.

NET ZERO & INNOVATION

Engagement with stakeholders on an annual basis to create refreshed Future Energy Scenarios.
Our popular annual innovation project ideas call will continue throughout ED2 with priorities set through stakeholder engagement. Our team of dedicated innovators will also scope and propose projects along with colleagues across the business.
A new interactive “ideas portal” will be developed aimed at staff, third parties, communities and other stakeholders where suggestions for new projects can be made.
Develop a balanced scorecard approach to identify the areas where flexible services will benefit the customer.
Ensure customers aiming to connect new LCTs (such as electric vehicle charge points) are engaged regularly, with new services and processes developed to respond to their needs and provide clarity on connections rules.

