

# Investing in the Electricity Network to Support Growth and the Transition to a Zero Carbon Economy

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# 2020 Investment workshops

- In September 2020, WPD's Distribution Managers (DMs) hosted a series of 11 workshops to gather feedback from stakeholders across WPD's network area
- The events gave stakeholders the opportunity to get involved in WPD's RII0-ED2 Business Plan development, virtually 'meet' local teams, find out about WPD's planned investments and discuss constraints/capacity issues
- WPD 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).
- WPD used the workshops as an opportunity to explain its Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES), share best practice and understand stakeholder's areas of interest

# 2020 Investment workshops

- 206 stakeholders attended in total, including councillors, council planning officers, developers and others involved in the growth agenda
- Each workshop was split into three sessions:
  - Introducing WPD
  - Supporting the Growth Agenda
  - Supporting the Transition to Net Zero
- The proposed actions (to be discussed with WPD's Customer Panel) are detailed on the following slides
- Feedback covering core business plan commitments has been picked up as part of the business plan consultation process and not duplicated here
- Reports can be found at <https://yourpowerfuture.westernpower.co.uk/workshops-and-events/investment-workshops>



# Agenda

- |       |   |       |  |
|-------|---|-------|--|
| 10.00 | Introducing the workshop  | 11.10 | Round table discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Sharing best practice to support those in need of help developing their plans</li><li>- Understanding your Local Energy Plans</li><li>- Your thoughts on outputs identified by stakeholders</li></ul>                                 |
| 10.05 | <b>Session 1- Introducing WPD</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Who we are/what we do, overview of your region</li><li>- COVID-19 and our response</li><li>- RIIO-ED2 Business Planning – an introduction</li></ul>   | 11.35 | Comfort break – grab yourself a coffee   |
| 10.25 | Round table discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Brief introductions in your zoom room</li><li>- Your thoughts on our RIIO-ED2 outputs</li><li>- COVID-19 support</li></ul>   | 11.50 | <b>Session 3 – Supporting the transition to net zero (low carbon technologies, inc. EV, heat pumps)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Impact on stakeholder Net Zero plans</li><li>- Getting LCT ready; WPD strategies &amp; policies</li><li>- What will EV charging look like?</li></ul> |
| 10.45 | <b>Session 2 – Supporting the growth agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Planned reinforcements in your area</li><li>- Explaining our Future Energy Scenarios and the local impacts</li><li>- Supporting our communities - Community Energy strategy</li></ul> | 12.05 | Roundtable discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Your net zero plans and LCT needs</li><li>- Our Community Energy Strategy</li><li>- Your thoughts on outputs stakeholders have identified</li></ul>  |
|       |   | 12.30 | Summary and close  |

# Building actions from stakeholder feedback

## Workshop session 1:

### Introducing WPD and ED2 outputs

\*Feedback covering core business plan commitments will be picked up as part of the business plan consultation and process

### Key feedback:

- WPD should play a key role in the green recovery. Among other things, the company was called on to improve its communication to expedite the green recovery, meet requirements for additional capacity, continue to focus on customer service and support Local Authorities as they return to long-term planning.
- Local authorities were keen to ensure that local tree planting schemes align with WPD's network plans. There was also widespread support for undergrounding cables to strengthen resilience.\*
- WPD should engage with residents before finalising its outputs. The company was advised to improve reliability and resilience by engaging with other DNOs, urban planners, developers and water companies.

### Actions\*

1. Co-ordinate a Green Recovery network investment plan for the last two years of ED1
2. Collaborate with other DNOs on communication/engagement with respect to the green recovery
3. Continue to liaise with Local Authorities to support their planning
4. Engage extensively on the Business Plan for ED2 with workshops and online consultations



# Building actions from stakeholder feedback

## Workshop session 2:

### Supporting the growth agenda

\*Feedback covering core business plan commitments will be picked up as part of the business plan consultation and process

#### Key feedback:

- WPD was advised to engage with domestic households on connections, including through landlords, and to educate the public on LCTs and planned development.
- There were calls for WPD to broaden the DFES approach to incorporate more sources of energy and whole city ecosystems, while the importance of engaging with community energy groups and businesses was also highlighted\*.

#### Actions\*

5. Continue to provide Customer, LA and Developer Guides and Strategy Documents for LCTs such as Electric Vehicles and Heat Pumps
6. Refresh the investment map data online for 2021
7. Continue with DFES engagement allowing all LAs the opportunity to meet and work with their local DM and consider broadening the DFES approach as suggested
8. Continue to educate CE groups, e.g. holding workshops or surgeries, providing technical support (including on feasibility), providing resources such as business templates and advising on funding opportunities

# Building actions from stakeholder feedback

## Workshop session 3:

### Supporting the transition to Net Zero

#### Key feedback:

- There were calls for WPD to lead as a DNO, raise its ambition (and further engage) around Net Zero and innovation, and ensure that the transition to Net Zero is inclusive and just. Stakeholders agreed that WPD should prioritise finding innovative solutions to providing additional network capacity.
- Stakeholders felt that better communication from WPD around local opportunities would facilitate this, and many were interested in accessing simple information on network availability in different areas.
- WPD should ensure its website is easy to use and consider introducing specific staff to engage on innovation.

#### Actions

9. Take a lead in supporting small businesses to achieve Net Zero
10. Run innovation projects focusing on communities and consumer vulnerability
11. Seek to add capacity for existing network growth and examine ways to use flexibility to help connecting customers
12. Continue to publish capacity information and promote it more widely