

# Report on Northern Powergrid's (NPg) Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) meeting

#6 December 2025

## Summary

Updates in the meeting included NPg's progression in its ED3 planning, its response to Ofgem's recently published sector specific methodology consultation (SSMC) and progress on NPg's delivery of its ED2 business plan commitments. Deep Dives were also held on unlooping and domestic LCTs, along with an update on the initiative NPg is doing with E.ON, to help lower electricity bills for customers.

The meeting also included the standard business items of updates from the DSO Review Panel<sup>1</sup> as well as the NPg broader updates including the ongoing challenges with connections reform and CP2030.

## ED3 Planning

NPg continues with its planning for ED3. The central team has welcomed a new Programme Lead, Project Manager Co-ordinator and in the new year, a Project Manager will be joining NPg to support the financial side of the plans.

NPg responded to Ofgem's SSMC as did NPg's ISG. It is keen for the industry to get underway and move the plans from paper.

## ED2 Business Plan Commitments Report

NPg's new Performance and Planning Lead continues to work closely with the ISG, and existing frameworks within NPg, to ensure the ISG get the visibility it needs to monitor progress of NPg delivery of its ED2 business plan commitments. NPg's Executive Leads of the report continue to support these meetings to voice over their updates and highlight anything potentially falling behind or at risk. Deep Dives are also done if there are any areas the ISG want to understand in more depth.

## DEEP DIVE – unlooping and domestic LCTs

NPg confirmed the issues around unlooping continue to be very real, across the whole industry not just for NPg. Such issues have come to light as the demand to connect solar, heat pumps and batteries are increasing. The increase is forecasted to continue into 2026. There was no reason to believe back in the 1950 & 1960's looping would be an issue.

A piece of industry research is now underway to help gain further insights to support the DNO's, and NPg has a programme of work to improve the LCT process from a customer's experience point of

<sup>1</sup> Find out more about Northern Powergrid's Distribution System Operation Review Panel here: [DSO Review Panel | Northern Powergrid](#)

view. Communications to customers is being looked at, and well as the capacity for the industry to resource this both now and in the future.

### **The E.ON initiative**

The project, which is installing free batteries and insulation in the homes of customers living in Crowle and Starbeck, continues to engage to try and get more people involved. The next round of engagement will be in January 2026.

With the help of free batteries from E.ON Next, and Northern Powergrid's new flexibility services product, households are able to store electricity during cheaper times of the day and use it at peak times, supporting the grid and lowering their own bills.

### **DSO Review Panel (DRP)**

The last DRP meeting (Oct 25) was joined by NPg's Vulnerability Policy Manager who shared recent insights into low carbon technologies (LCT) for vulnerable customers. She will return in 2026 to update on what NPg have done with those insights.

The DRP also discussed the results of the DSO incentive panel assessment and what this means moving forward, as well as flexibility and its attractiveness' more broadly.

### **ED3 Stakeholder Engagement**

NPg continues to work hard developing its AI triangulation tool. The system is now being tested alongside NPg colleagues across the business before being rolled out more broadly. Naturally the more the tool is used, the more it will learn and become more accurate.

The next phase of the ISG supporting NPg's plans and engagement as it look ahead to ED3 will commence in the new year, and the schedule is currently being worked through.

### **NPg Broader Updates**

There have been significant changes in tRESP and NPg suggests this has its own dedicated item on the agenda to unpack in the next meeting.

Connections reform, more than half of the queue in megawatt terms, has now gone. Those remaining in the queue have been provided with a number to help manage the remaining customers.

<sup>1</sup> Find out more about Northern Powergrid's Distribution System Operation Review Panel here: [DSO Review Panel | Northern Powergrid](#)