

10th March 2022

TDPNI 2021-2030

SONI Ltd

12 Manse Road

Belfast

BT6 9RT

**Re: Response to TDPNI Consultation**

To whom it may concern,

Derry City and Strabane District Council welcomes the publication of the consultation on the Transmission Development Plan for Northern Ireland (DTNI). The plan was considered by Elected Members at the March 1st meeting of Council’s Governance and Strategic Planning Committee and its response is duly outlined below.

Council recognises that Derry City and Strabane District and the wider North West is uniquely positioned, has a rich source of energy to drive economic growth and has significant export potential for North/South and East/West regions. Council welcomes the System Operator for Northern Ireland (SONI) comments that they intend to have a focus on the North West and also in the Mid Tyrone areas where they want to strengthen the grid to support economic development and to facilitate decarbonisation of Northern Ireland’s electricity supply.

Renewable energy is an important driver of the green transformation of Derry City and Strabane District Council and to help address its climate change pledge. Council have (together with Donegal County Council) developed a NW Energy Strategy and will focus on ensuring a secure and affordable supply of energy in the NW and on decarbonisation. Recognising that there is a need to reinforce the grid to facilitate an increase in renewable energy generation for both commercial and domestic applications.

Council recognises the need for electricity grid development to meet future demand for the roll out of Electric Vehicles and Heat Pump technology.

Council would also see to highlight the impact and interdependencies of battery technology, at a domestic & commercial level on the development of the grid; and energy efficiency on grid capacity and the long term generation strategy.

Rising living costs and global drivers on energy provision are a particular concern for council. Council would urge SONI to use the DTNI to help mitigate any risks associated with the security and affordability of energy supply.

Council would seek assurance that any development is carefully planned and in accordance with the rights of nature ensuring that developments protect our rich biodiversity, mitigate climate change impacts, reduce noise, protect our rich landscape and cultural heritage, water and air quality and improve our tourism offering.

Council would advocate that any investment into the region’s infrastructure should be undertaken within a social value/community wealth building approach to ensure that local people can benefit from this investment via locally sourced labour, procurement exercises, skills apprenticeships and increased employment.

The Council wishes to thank you for the opportunity to respond to this consultation and awaits the outcome of the consultation process.

Yours faithfully,







John Kelpie  
**Chief Executive**

**Derry City and Strabane District Council**