

Sent by Email: [info@soni.ltd.uk](mailto:info@soni.ltd.uk)

14<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**RE: DRAFT Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland (TDPNI) 2021-2030 Consultation**

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council very much welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on your Draft Transmission Development Plan 2021-2030.

This Council appreciates SONI's willingness to engage as we seek to work together to ensure security of supply for the future and to combat climate change.

The Draft Transmission Development Plan comes at a time of significant activity on energy issues, with the recent publication of the Energy Strategy, and new Climate Change Legislation being passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly. Furthermore, rising energy costs are a matter of concern to many households and businesses, particularly given events internationally and subsequent volatility in global fossil fuel markets.

As a Council, we place substantial importance on the need to reduce carbon emissions and to take steps towards Net Zero. We therefore recognise the crucial role which SONI has to play in preparing the transmission grid for the future - with electricity generation set to change significantly in the coming decade.

Achieving the target of at least 70% renewable generation of electricity by 2030 is a task which will require collaboration across all levels of government and from a wide range of stakeholders. We welcome in principle the steps which SONI is taking to enhance renewable capacity and to facilitate greater levels of clean energy.

We note in the TDPNI that the territory categorised as the 'North West Planning Area', in which this Council resides, has significantly greater levels of generation than demand. As a consequence of this, it is stated that reinforcement of the grid is required to enable the transfer of energy from where it is generated to areas of greater demand. We also note the requirement for reinforcement due to local constraints and a shortage of transmission capacity in certain areas.

A series of projects outlined in the TDPNI have relevance to the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough, such as the proposed Mid Antrim Upgrade. We recognise that

many of these projects will be scrutinised through their own separate consultation processes and, where applicable, planning applications.

As a Council we look forward to engaging with SONI on these projects in further detail and would welcome early dialogue as part of your grid development process.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricard Baker', written in a cursive style.

**Ricard Baker GM MSc**

Director

On behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council