



COMMUNITY ENERGY

PARTICIPATING IN FLEXIBILITY SERVICES

16 July 2026



Scottish & Southern
Electricity Networks

DSO Powering Change



HOUSEKEEPING

- Today's session will be recorded
- We will be using Slido today
- Slides and the session recording will be made available after the event



Video/webcams off



Mics on mute
Please stay on mute
unless you are asking
a question



Technical queries
If you have any
technical questions
let us know

- Please feel free to ask questions throughout the presentation via the Teams Q&A – we will cover as many as we can at the end of the presentation





AGENDA

Introduction to SSEN and Flexibility

Paul Fitzgerald
Flexibility Markets Team Manager

Flexibility and Community Energy

Ronke Ajadi
Flexibility Agreements Manager

How we identify Flexibility Requirements

Ian Thomson
Whole Systems Analyst

How to participate in Flexibility Services

Ronke Ajadi
Flexibility Agreements Manager

Your Feedback

Q&A



INTRODUCTION TO SSEN

Paul Fitzgerald, Flexibility Markets Team Manager





ABOUT SSEN DISTRIBUTION

One of six DNOs in Great Britain, our electricity distribution network delivers power to over 4 million homes and businesses across the diverse and unique geographies of the north of Scotland and central southern England.

Serving some of the UK's most remote and island communities and some of the most densely populated, our two networks cover the greatest land mass in the UK.

We're at the forefront of delivering the decarbonised electricity system of the future, connecting new low-carbon technologies, releasing capacity and connecting customers earlier, helping support sustainable economic growth for decades to come.

SSEN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK AT A GLANCE

Nearly **4 million** homes and businesses

Over **128,000km** of overhead lines and underground cables

Over **460km** of subsea cables powering our island communities

Over **4,400** employees across the country



North of Scotland
SSEH/SHEPD LICENCE AREA

Central Southern England
SSES/SEPD LICENCE AREA

Our Role as a Distribution System Operator (DSO)

Strategic Investment

- Provide the capacity on the network to deliver net zero by 2050.
- Ensure that we're making appropriate use of flexibility services to deliver efficient whole-system solutions at the optimum time.

Flexibility services

- Mid-term solutions that enable us to use our existing network efficiently
- An investment signal for Strategic Investment
- Provides an interim solution if there are long lead times for Strategic Investment

Access products

- Connecting customers now, but with some level of compromise
- Complemented by flexibility services or strategic investment to meet customers full needs as soon as possible.



INTRODUCTION TO FLEXIBILITY

Paul Fitzgerald, Flexibility Markets Team Manager



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WHAT IS FLEXIBILITY?

Flexibility is supporting the network by influencing either generation or demand. This helps us manage electricity demand growth and keep costs low

Generation

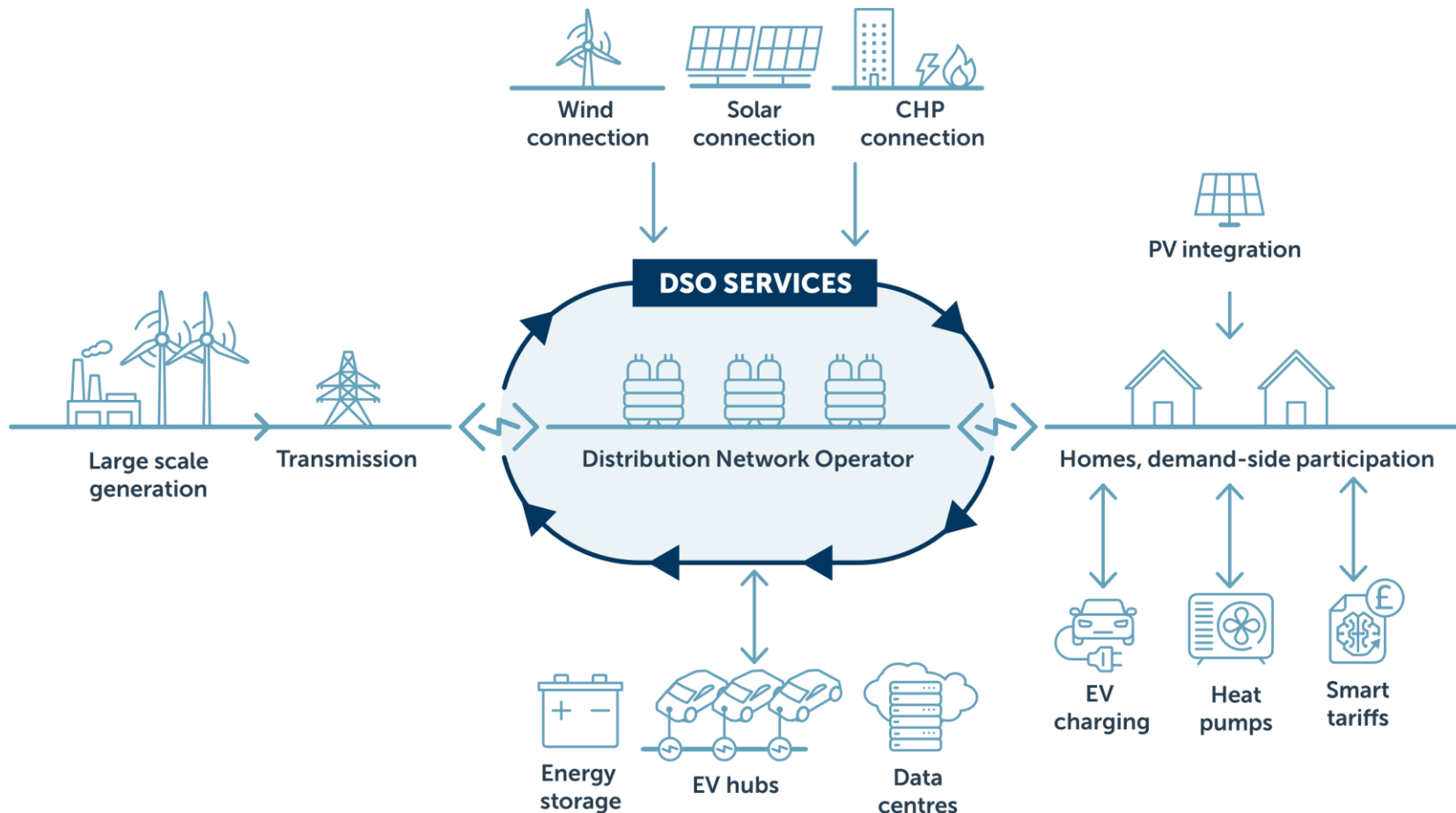
- Curtailing generation
e.g. Turning off wind turbines
- Ramping up generation
e.g. Turning on gas generators

Demand

- Demand Turn-down
e.g. Charging EVs at night
- Demand Turn-up
e.g. Storing energy in batteries



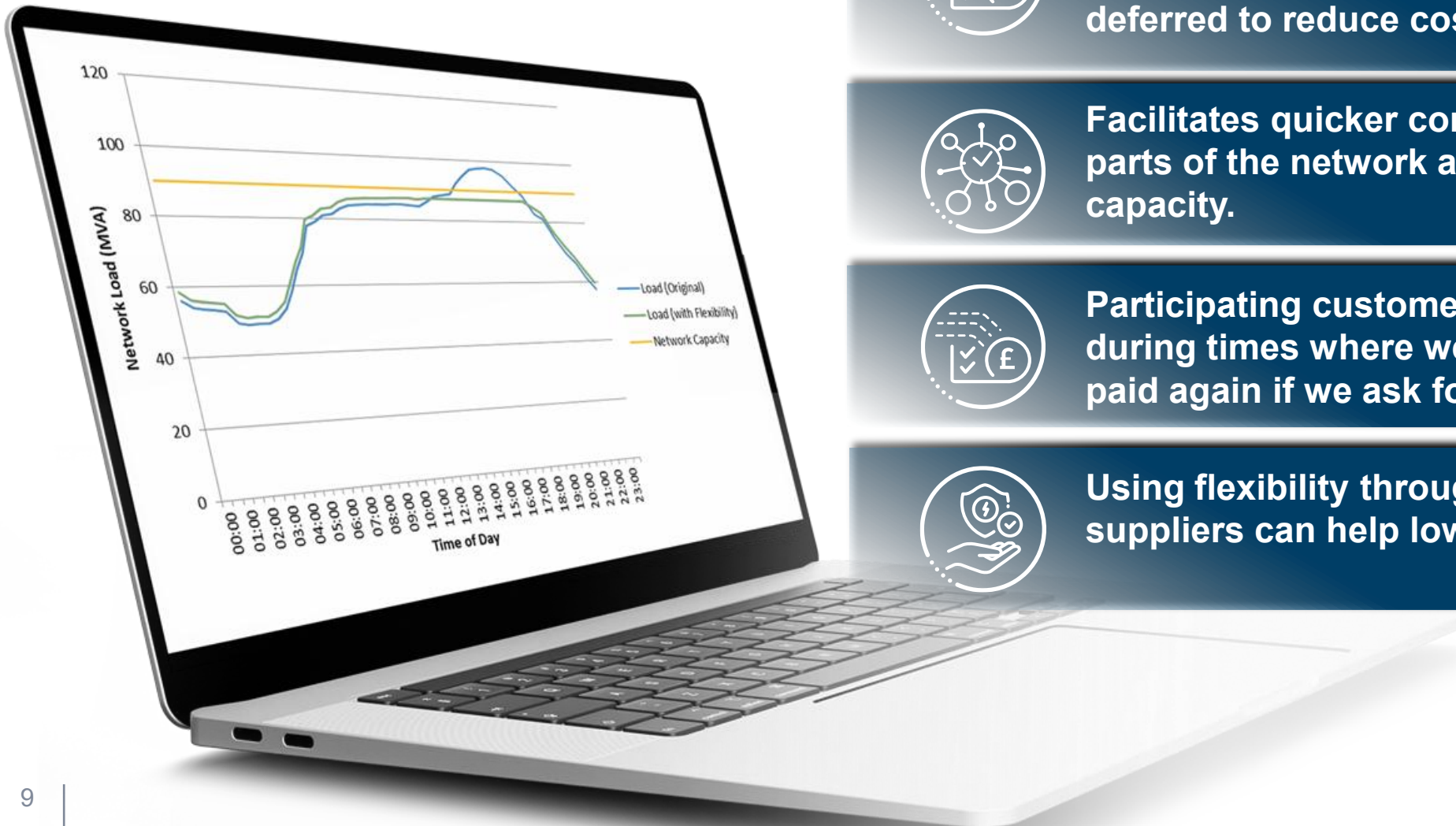
WHY DO WE NEED FLEXIBILITY?



- More customers are connecting **EVs, heat pumps and renewables**
- These technologies increase pressure on parts of the network
- Network capacity is limited, and reinforcement can take time
- Flexibility helps us manage demand and generation more efficiently
- We use flexibility where it is technically viable and economically efficient to do so



BENEFITS OF FLEXIBILITY



Traditional solutions to increase network capacity such as building network reinforcement can be deferred to reduce costs.



Facilitates quicker connections to congested parts of the network ahead of increasing network capacity.



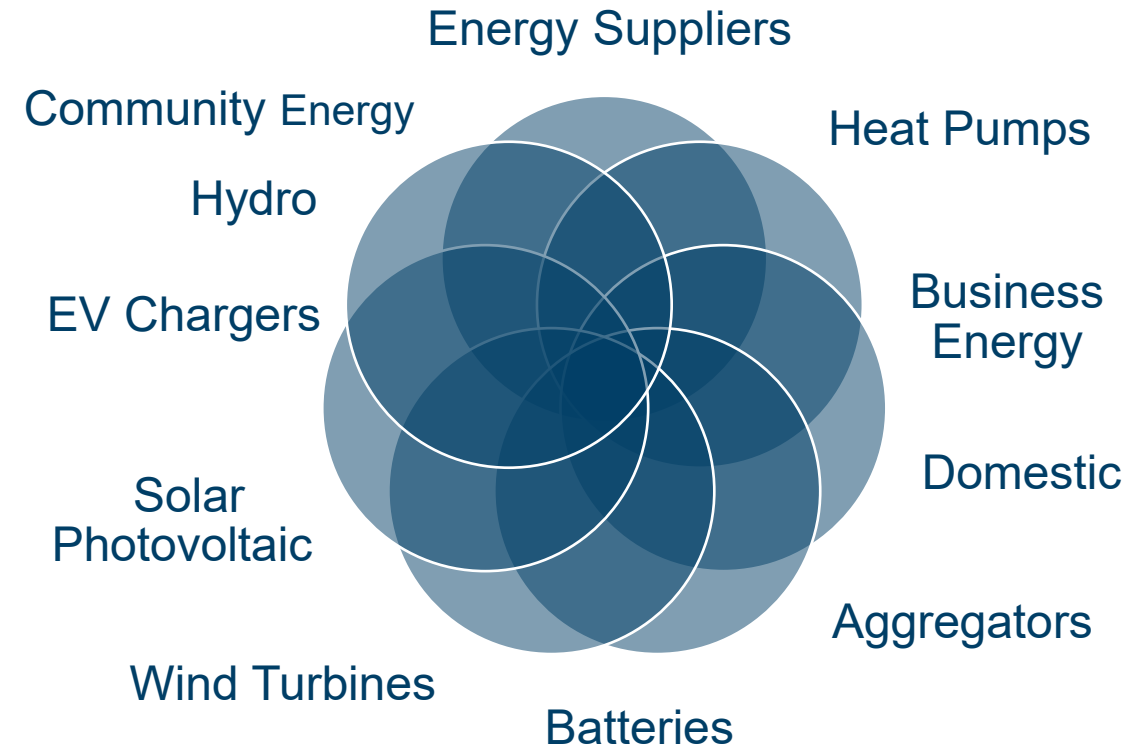
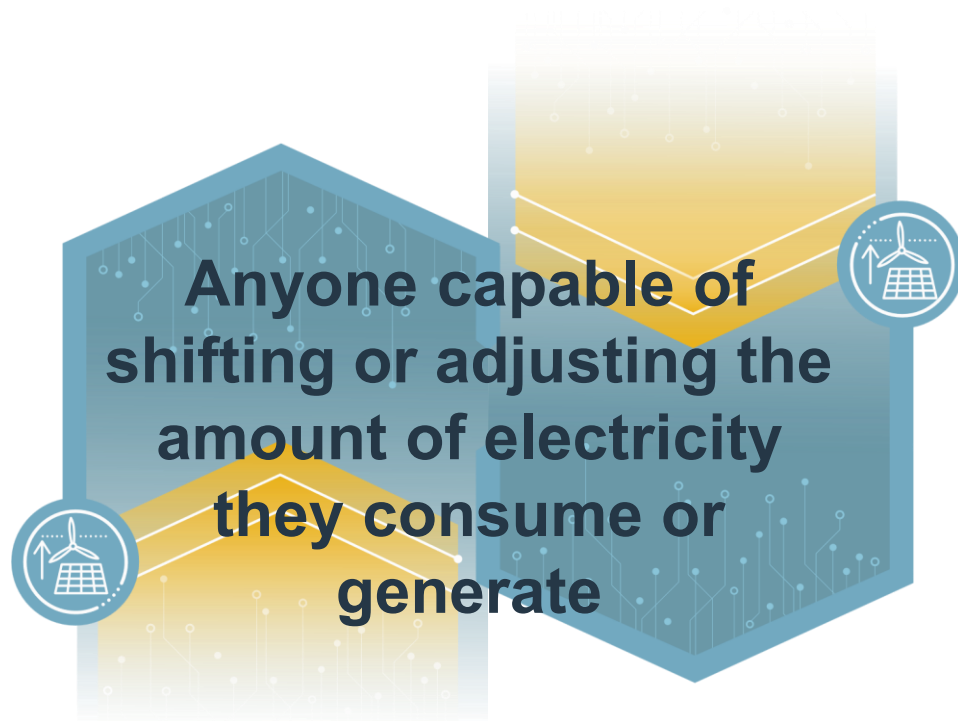
Participating customers are paid to be available, during times where we may need flexibility, and paid again if we ask for energy changes



Using flexibility through aggregators or energy suppliers can help lower bills



WHO CAN PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY SERVICES?

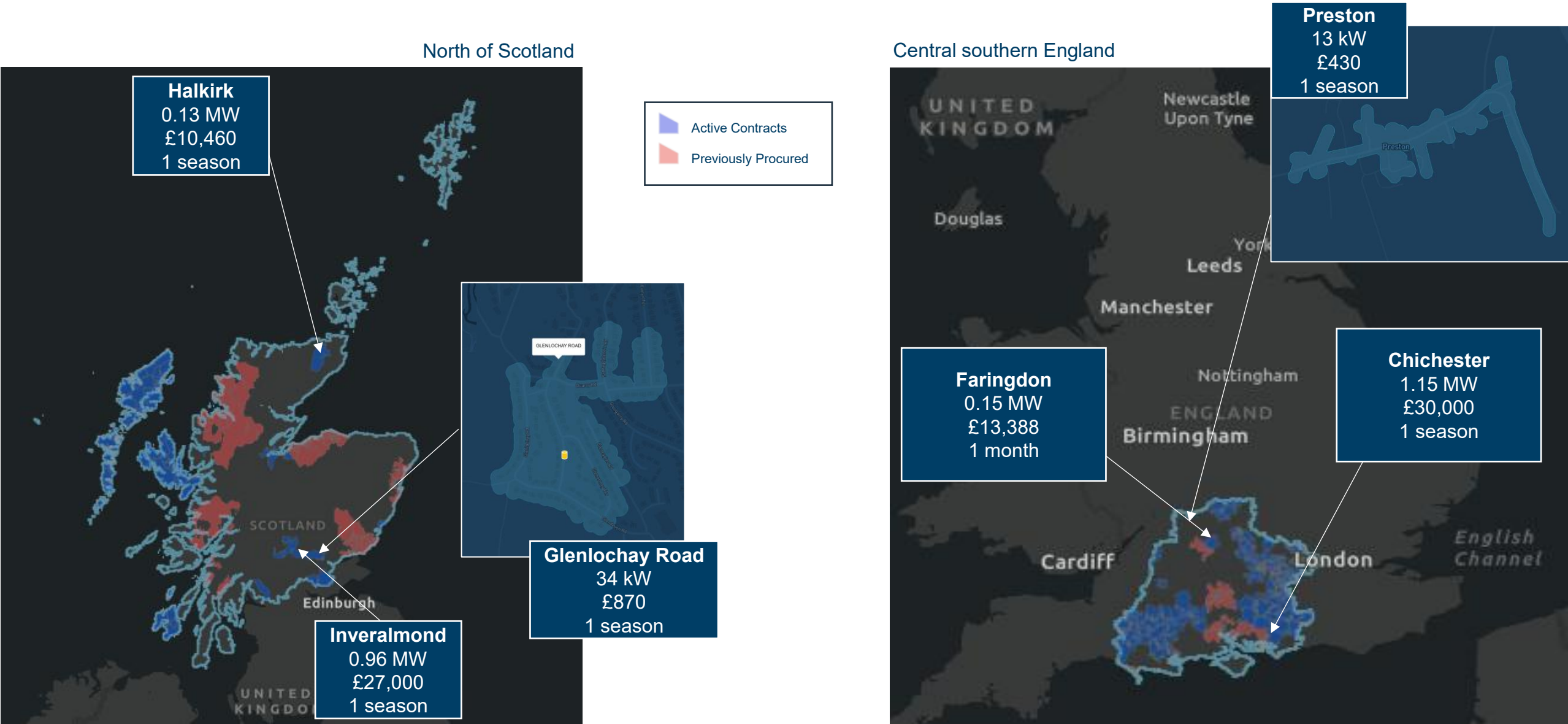




Stop Time



PREVIOUSLY PROCURED FLEXIBILITY





FLEXIBILITY AND COMMUNITY ENERGY

Ronke Ajadi, Flexibility Agreements Manager



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BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY ENERGY PROJECTS

1. Potential Additional Revenue for Local Projects

By participating in SSEN's DSO Flex markets, community energy projects will receive flex payments which can generate an additional revenue stream that stays within the local community the project serves.

2. Reduced Carbon Footprint

Communities can accelerate to net zero through flexibility enabling additional low carbon technologies locally.

3. Faster Access to Grid Capacity

Local communities engaging with flexibility services can free up capacity on local networks, which can in turn enable greater access to existing capacity.

4. Increased Resilience & Energy Independence

Flexibility improves the resilience of local energy networks. Flexibility services encourage and empower communities to take control of their local energy system.

5. Lower Bills for Everyone

Flexibility services reduce the cost of running the distribution network, which can result in lower bills for everyone.



COMMUNITY CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES

Ynni Ogwen Bethesda



What is the project?

Ynni Ogwen is a community-owned hydro scheme in North Wales, with profits reinvested back into the local community.

How has the project supported the local network?

The project has established a local energy club, where Bethesda residents can sign up to get cheap electricity during times when the hydro scheme is generating, and a time-of-use tariff at other times. The Local Energy Club has demonstrated impact on demand patterns in the local community, and reduced burden on local network by shifting demand to times when there is local generation.



COMMUNITY CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES

Low Carbon Hub Oxfordshire



What is the project?

Low Carbon Hub manages 24.3 MW of renewable energy projects, including community-owned Ray Valley Solar Farm, Sandyford Hydro, and Rose Hill battery.

How has the project supported the local network?

The project has used community-owned renewable energy and batteries to participate directly in DSO flexibility markets and earn revenue from generation turn-up and turn-down services.



COMMUNITY CASE STUDIES AND SUCCESS STORIES

Cornwall Local Energy Market



What is the project?

Cornwall Local Energy Market was an innovation trial which installed low-carbon technologies such as domestic solar panels, smart domestic batteries, CHP plants, solar/wind generation, and device-level energy monitoring within the local community.

How has the project supported the local network?

The installed technologies were then used as a Virtual Power Plant to provide flexibility services to the local grid, allowing local homes and businesses to receive payments for their energy flexibility.



HOW WE IDENTIFY FLEXIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

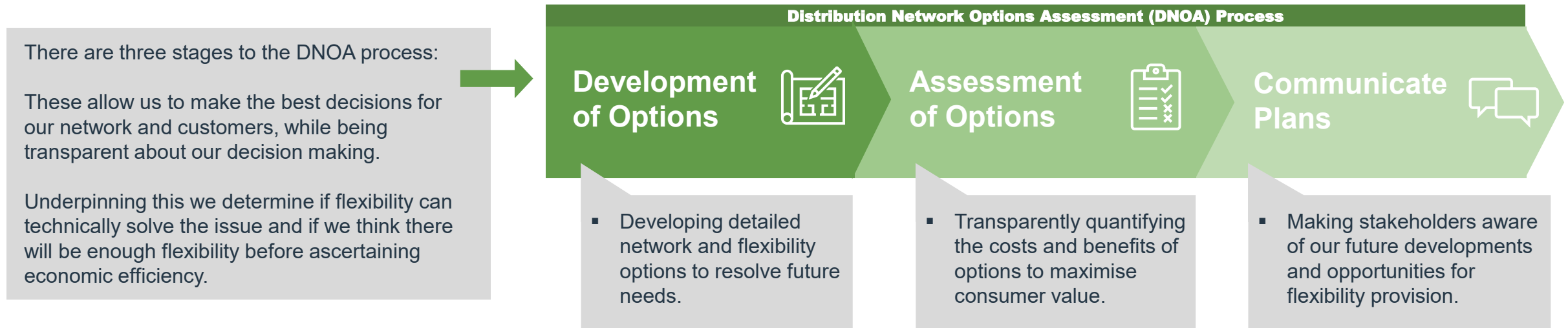
Ian Thomson, Whole Systems Analyst





HOW WE DECIDE WHERE FLEXIBILITY IS THE RIGHT OPTION

Distribution Network Options Assessment (DNOA)

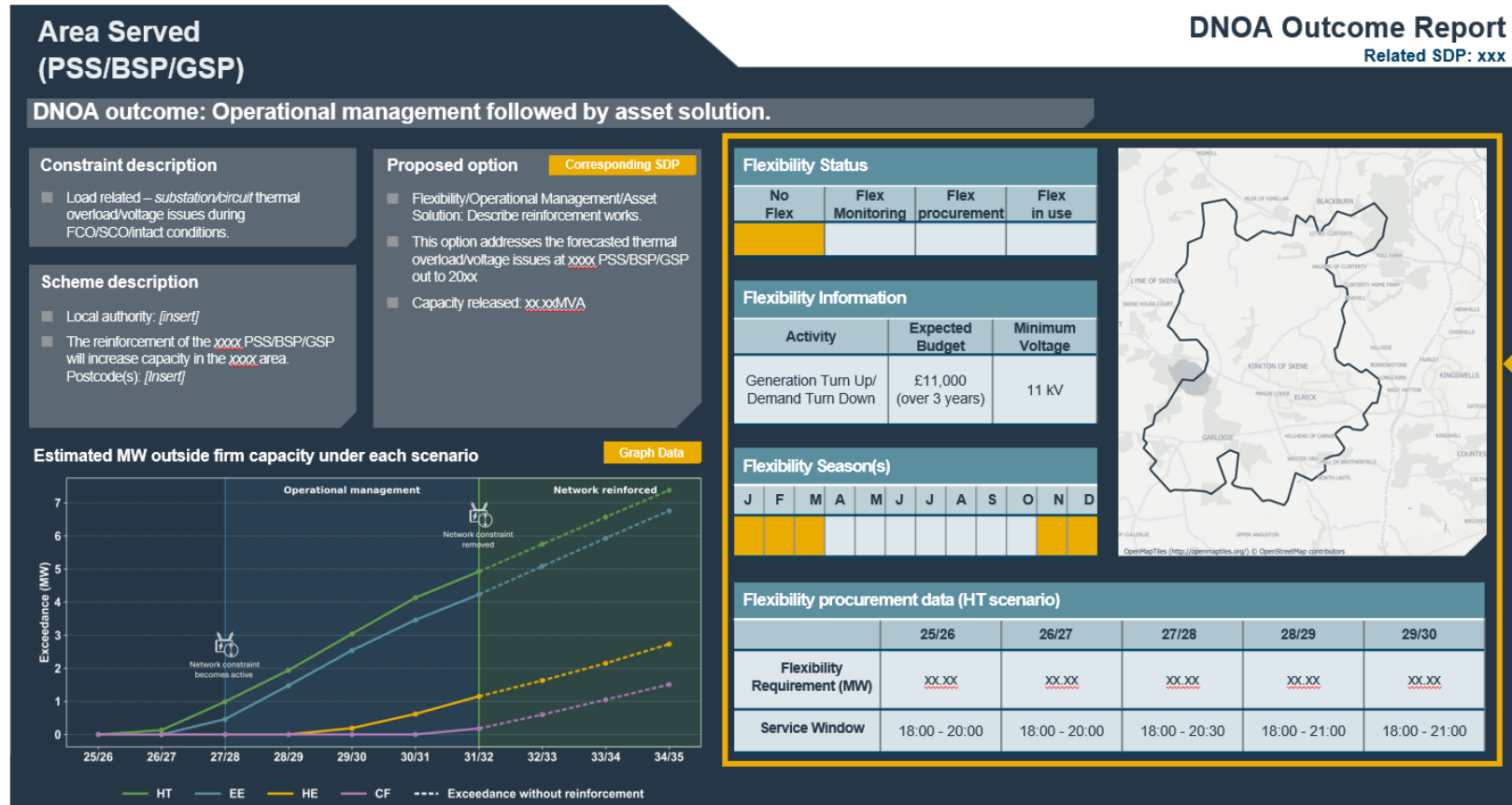


In future, we will aim to use flexibility to solve more operational challenges outside of the DNOA process.



COMMUNICATION OF FLEXIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

DNOA Outcome Report



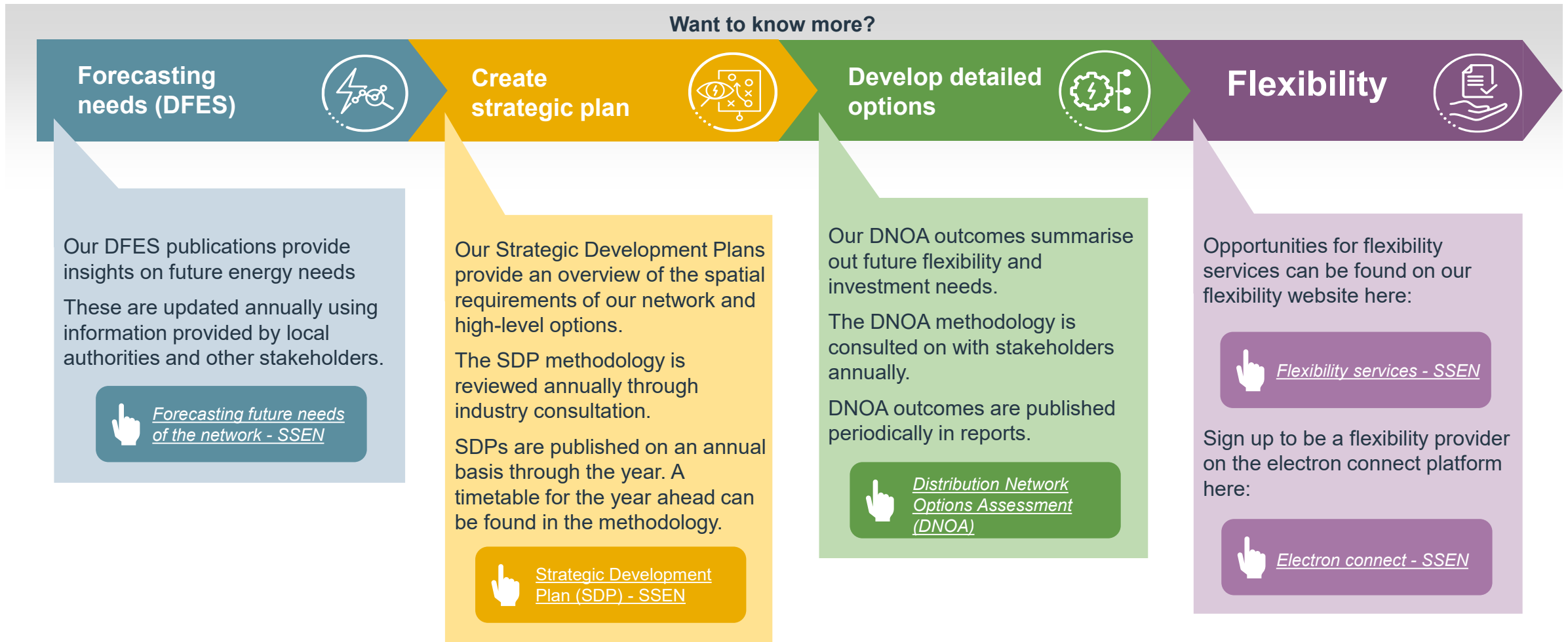
- Published through DNOA and market procurement activities
- Defined by location, capacity and service window
- Specify when flexibility is needed (season and year)
- Provide clear opportunities for flexibility providers





WANT FURTHER INFORMATION?

We provide a significant amount of data and information relating to our future energy insights, network needs, flexibility opportunities and investment decisions. You can find out more in the links below.





HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN FLEXIBILITY SERVICES

Ronke Ajadi, Flexibility Agreements Manager



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HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN FLEXIBILITY SERVICES

Option 1: Participate via an aggregator who has an existing contract with SSEN.

Option 2: Participate via your supplier if they have an existing contract with SSEN.

Option 3: Participate with SSEN directly, if you have large assets and prefer to sign a contract yourselves.



STANDARD SERVICES OVERVIEW

	Long-Term Markets	Short-Term Markets
Procurement Timescales	3 months – 3 years	Day Ahead Month Ahead
Dispatch Timescales	2 minutes, Day Ahead, Week Ahead	Day Ahead
Assets	Can be consented, planned, in development	Must be Energised, Operational

Payments

- ✓ Availability fee (£/MW/h): Availability payments are made for being ready to respond when needed.
- ✓ Utilisation fee (£/MWh): Utilisation payments are made for actually adjusting your energy use or generation when called upon.

Further information: [Flexibility Services - SSEN](#)



YOUR FEEDBACK



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What do you consider to be the barriers to participating in DSO Flexibility services?



What do you recommend we do to address these barriers?



Q&A

ENGAGE WITH US

For any queries or to request further information, please contact us on:



stakeholder.engagement@sse.com



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SSEN provides Distribution System Operator Services (DSO Services) for the Distribution Systems we own and operate.



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THANK YOU