



**STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN  
HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND  
UK POWER NETWORKS**

**06 JULY 2026**

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# STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND BETWEEN HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL AND UK POWER NETWORKS

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document presents a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) and UK Power Networks (UKPN) in relation to the developing Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2046 (HLP).

It has been prepared jointly by HDC and UKPN in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) to collaborate and identify strategic matters, documenting cross-boundary matters and progress in cooperating to address these matters.

Huntingdonshire District Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Huntingdonshire administrative area. UKPN own, maintain and upgrade the electricity cables electricity network across London, the South East and East of England on behalf of three Electricity Distribution Licence holding companies: London Power Networks plc, South Eastern Power Networks plc and Eastern Power Networks plc. UKPN also plan to accommodate future network capacity.

This SoCG set outs the basis on which the parties have actively and constructively worked together to meet the requirements of future growth as a result of the Huntingdonshire's local plan. The statement sets out the agreement, outstanding matters between parties and where necessary areas of disagreement as appropriate and covers matters relating to electricity infrastructure.

## 2. PARTIES INVOLVED

The parties involved in this Statement of Common Ground are:

- Huntingdonshire District Council
- UK Power Networks

### 3. SIGNATORIES

**The signatories on behalf of Huntingdonshire District Council are:**

*Clara Kerr - Head of Planning Infrastructure and Public Protection*



06/07/2026

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Name

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Date

**The signatories on behalf of UK Power Networks are:**

*José Barros – Strategic Planning Engineer – Asset Management EPN*



06/07/2026

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Name

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Date

## 4. ADMINISTRATIVE AREAS COVERED/ STRATEGIC GEOGRAPHY

UKPN own, maintain and upgrade the electricity cables electricity network across London, the South East and East of England on behalf of three Electricity Distribution Licence holding companies: London Power Networks plc, South Eastern Power Networks plc and Eastern Power Networks plc. Huntingdonshire District Council falls within the Eastern Power Network operating area.

HDC and UKPN recognise the cumulative impacts on electricity infrastructure provision and management that transcend district boundaries, and that growth occurring both within Huntingdonshire and in neighbouring Local Planning Authorities may have ongoing effects elsewhere. This consideration has been assessed and taken into account through HDCs Infrastructure Delivery Studies.

The strategic area identified as relevant to this Statement of Common Ground is the Eastern Power Network operating area, which Huntingdonshire District Council sits within.

**Figure 1: Area Covered by Statement of Common Ground**



## 5. ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE PROVISION

### Background

On 24 January 2023, Huntingdonshire District Council's **Cabinet** agreed to the preparation of a full update to the adopted Local Plan.

As part of the development of the local plan the council undertook a Stage 1 Infrastructure Delivery Study Baseline Report 2025. This assessed a series of growth options and strategic sites to inform the final growth strategy for the local plan and the selection of strategic sites alongside a baseline assessment of infrastructure provision within the District including utilities and electricity infrastructure.

Prior to consultation on the Pre-Submission Local Plan a Stage 2 (final) Infrastructure Delivery Study (IDS) was conducted to identify the infrastructure required to support growth across the district.

Ongoing engagement in relation to Infrastructure requirements and development of the Local Plan has been ongoing since 2023. With UKPN feeding into the development of the IDS alongside meetings to discuss progress and respective strategies to ensure forward planning and capacity required.

Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) have collaborated with Peterborough City Council to help inform an evidence base regarding electrical infrastructure and energy supply. Both Huntingdonshire District Council and Peterborough City Council have been engaging with UKPN as part of their infrastructure evidence bases. The area discussed was Peterborough and North Huntingdonshire especially along the A1(M) corridor. HDC have provided information on sites relevant to the study including commitments, proposed allocations and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) sites that have been identified in the Local Growth Plan but are not included in HDC's local plan. Huntingdonshire District will continue to update and engage with Peterborough City Council and UKPN if further information or action is required.

HDC and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority have been working collaboratively to provide information relating to growth to inform the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan which aims to ensure that local areas have the energy infrastructure required to meet local and national goals. HDC is actively involved in the NESO (National Energy System Operator) Strategic Energy Planning Forum for Central England which will be responsible for the development of the Regional Energy Strategic Plan and a Strategic Spatial Energy Plan to map potential electricity and hydrogen generation and storage infrastructure for Great Britain . The electricity distribution network operators (DNOs) will use the tRESP alongside Ofgem's business planning guidance, to develop their plans for the third electricity distribution price control period, known as ED3, which covers 2028-33. This engagement and information will continue to help inform the final Regional Energy Strategic Plan.

In addition, in partnership with districts in Cambridgeshire officers at HDC participated in the production on the Cambridgeshire Local Area Energy Plan (LEAP), an evidence base to inform strategies and plans for local energy infrastructure requirements. The document was submitted to relevant partners including UKPN and NESO via the Regional Energy System Plan (RESP) to inform future energy planning. Peterborough City Council has also produced an LAEP. The LAEP provides Huntingdonshire with a clear, evidence-based plan to transition to net zero whilst supporting growth, priority status for electricity network reinforcement, especially at Huntingdon, a defensible framework to secure external funding (UK Power Network - UKPN, National Energy Systems Operator - NESO, DESNZ, Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - LEVI, CPCA) and tools to reduce inequality, address fuel poverty and deliver healthier, more resilient homes.

### **Strategic Matter**

As part of the development of the Local Plan, Huntingdonshire must demonstrate that it has identified the infrastructure required to support growth.

Through the findings of the Infrastructure Delivery Study and ongoing engagement with UKPN the following was identified:

- UKPN will need to provide new infrastructure in the central section of Huntingdonshire in the medium term (post ED3 (2028 – 2033)) by means of a primary substation assuming proposed major development progresses in the forecasted timescales. UK Power Networks will need support from the local authority to ensure planning approval for the new primary substation.
- UKPN are working on the establishment of a new supply to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital
- There are some localised needs for reinforcement in areas such as Brington/Kimbolton, being addressed during ED2 and ED3. There are also plans to increase capacity to the east of St Neots and Godmanchester during ED3.
- There is potential for the need for cabling/connection work at Sawtry and Kimbolton 2: South East of Bicton Industrial Estate, Stow Road.
- To the north of the District, UKPN foresees potential for capacity constraints at Orton Primary Substation, which is relatively close to capacity and may require reinforcement. Dependent on energy intensity and efficiency, some individual pockets inside the new development areas may also need to await delivery of further EHV reinforcements, currently being planned for the longer term with the neighbouring Distribution Network Operator (National Grid Electricity Distribution). The sites most affected are:
  - Peterborough Services 1: West of the A1 and south of Peterborough Motorway Services
  - Yaxley 1: 18 Eagle Business Park, Phase 3

- It was noted that Sibson Garden community, insofar as 11kV systems are concerned, is prohibitively far from existing UKPN substations considering the prospective amount of development. This implies that a new Primary would be required at or near the site, fed via 33kV cables of considerable length.

UKPN state that upstream distribution network reinforcement is DNO funded, per agreed mechanisms with OFGEM (Office of Gas and Electricity Markets). For major reinforcement outside the ongoing regulatory settlement, DNOs seek funding approval by engineering justification papers to OFGEM as part of price control submissions (ED3 will be the next period which will be from 2028 to 2033). Network extensions for a single customer are normally funded by customers, unless the extension meets criteria for shared or socialised costs as stipulated by OFGEM<sup>1</sup>.

### **Areas of agreement / Disagreement**

UK Power Networks and Huntingdonshire District Council agree that:

- HDC and UKPN have had ongoing cooperation and engagement throughout the development of the local plan
- HDC and UKPN have been actively engaged in the development of the Infrastructure Delivery Study.
- UKPN are the responsible body for the operation, maintenance and upgrade of the electricity network infrastructure and that there is strategic alignment between more immediate development needs (Year 11 and under), existing network availability and planned network reinforcement e.g. works at Huntingdon Grid, reinforcement of Godmanchester Primary, establishment of a new supply to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital and establishment of a new primary substation to the east of St Neots.
- The cumulative impact of growth as a result of the Local Plan and growth in neighbouring areas have been adequately addressed through the development of the IDS, the involvement of HDC in the Regional Energy Strategic Planning Forum and through UKPNs continued engagement with other energy infrastructure providers including National Grid.
- UKPN will investigate whether localised needs for reinforcement in areas such as Brington and Kimbolton are required in the long-term and include measures within the relevant price review process.
- Peterborough Services 1: West of the A1 and south of Peterborough Motorway Services and Yaxley 1: 18 Eagle Business Park, Phase 3 may need to be phased to accommodate additional capacity development at Orton Primary (circa 3–5 years). However, overall requirements for system upgrades will depend on the energy

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<sup>1</sup> UKPN Infrastructure Assessment Consultation response, January 2026.

intensity and efficiency of end uses. If demand exceeds the wider system capacity, some sites may need to await delivery of further EHV reinforcements. The timeframe associated with these EHV reinforcements lies in the range of 5-10 years.

- There will be a need in the medium term (post ED3/2033) to establish new infrastructure in the central section of Huntingdonshire by means of a primary substation. This will be triggered by developments at Huntingdon 4: Wyton Airfield and Huntingdon 3: Lodge Farm. Preparations including site selection and cable routes are currently being reviewed.
- HDC and UKPN will continue to engage and share information including delivery rates and housing trajectories to enable UKPN to forward plan for future energy infrastructure provision.

## 6. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

HDC and UKPN have been cooperating closely and engaging on an ongoing basis through meetings, document reviews and collaboration, as well as through written consultation representations. A record of discussions and outcomes from consultation comments can be found as below:

HDC and UKPN agree to the following governance arrangements:

- Ongoing engagement and cooperation through meetings and discussions and data provision on matters relating to energy infrastructure
- Annual meeting to review and monitor growth and infrastructure delivery
- Agree to review this SoCG and update as relevant

Table 1: Record of Meetings and Correspondence with UKPN

The key areas of collaboration to date have been identified below (these exclude on the most part email exchanges). The parties have worked collaboratively within a close working relationship to recognise, raise and remedy arising issues.

**TABLE 1: Record of Meetings and Correspondence with UKPN**

Date	Format	Remit	Attendees/ recipients / contacts	Discussion
05/10/2023	Workshop	Electricity Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Head of Network Planning – UKPN</li> <li>Senior Planning Policy Officer - HDC</li> </ul>	<p>Update on National context electricity infrastructure, future network blueprints and the network in East Anglia.</p> <p>UKPN – Regional focus, examples of work underway, understanding connections, ambition for future connections, business plans</p>
18/02/2025	Meeting	Electricity Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead Planning Engineer – UKPN</li> <li>Senior Planning Policy Officer – HDC</li> <li>Planning Policy Team Leader - HDC</li> </ul>	<p>UK Power Networks investment plan for the period 2028-2033.</p> <p>Discussion on local plan prioritisation, emerging sites, future aspirations to feed into proposals to OFGEM (the Regulator).</p>
12/05/2025	Meeting	Infrastructure Delivery Study Baseline Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Planning Engineer - UKPN</li> <li>Lead Planning Engineer – UKPN</li> <li>DAC consultancy</li> <li>Huntingdonshire District Council</li> </ul>	<p>Update on Local Plan and timetable</p> <p>Update on Infrastructure Delivery Study</p> <p>Discussion on baseline assessment and electricity infrastructure</p>
02/07/2025	Email	Response to Infrastructure Delivery Study to feed into Stage 1 Baseline Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Planning Engineer and Lead Planning Engineer – UKPN</li> </ul>	<p>Comments on growth strategy options</p>
12/01/2026	Meeting		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Planning Engineer - UKPN</li> <li>Lead Planning Engineer – UKPN</li> <li>Principal Planning Policy Officer – HDC</li> <li>Implementation Team Leader – HDC</li> <li>DAC consultancy</li> </ul>	<p>Update on Local Plan and timetable</p> <p>Update on Infrastructure Delivery Study</p> <p>Discussion on comments submitted to the Preferred Options Draft Local Plan consultation and requirements and costs required to support growth</p>
14/01/2026	email	Response to Infrastructure Delivery Study to feed into Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strategic Planning Engineer – UKPN</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Comments on sites included in the Pre-Submission Local Plan including, where network reinforcement may be required and identification of nearest substations</li> <li>Review of Stage 1 baseline assessment and provision of updates</li> <li>Impact of Local Plan Growth Option on Infrastructure</li> <li>Infrastructure required as a result of local plan growth</li> <li>Cost of infrastructure provision</li> <li>Delivery of infrastructure required</li> </ul>

## 7. NEXT STEPS

The parties have also agreed to:

- Keep dialogue open on matters arising which are likely to significantly impact on the delivery of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2046.
- Continually review and update this SoCG in light of any changing circumstances; and
- Maintain positive principles of cooperation.

### **Main points of Contact**

The main points of contact for day-to-day collaboration are established as:

- [REDACTED] - Huntingdonshire District Council: Principal Planning Policy Officer
- [REDACTED] - UKPN: Asset Management Department