

# ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP: CENTRAL SOUTH

How can we improve the energy infrastructure in the Central South region to secure long-term, sustainable, and decarbonised growth?

## BACKGROUND

Connection to the energy network is a high-priority across the Central South, with the region being one of the highest energy users across the UK, yet has the lowest renewable energy generation.

The ability to generate and connect to the energy network is a vital piece in the puzzle for the continued growth of the Central South, yet, just last week, National Grid announced there was no more capacity for new connections to the grid in the region.

The current process for connecting demand and generation is outdated. This contributes to the difficulty of not enough energy infrastructure in the ground to facilitate demand.

The demands on energy and the current structure for obtaining connections for supply to the grid is already having a significant impact on the Central South area.

## THE PROBLEMS WITH THE GRID:

- The process for connecting demand and generation is outdated and risk adverse
- There is not enough infrastructure in the ground

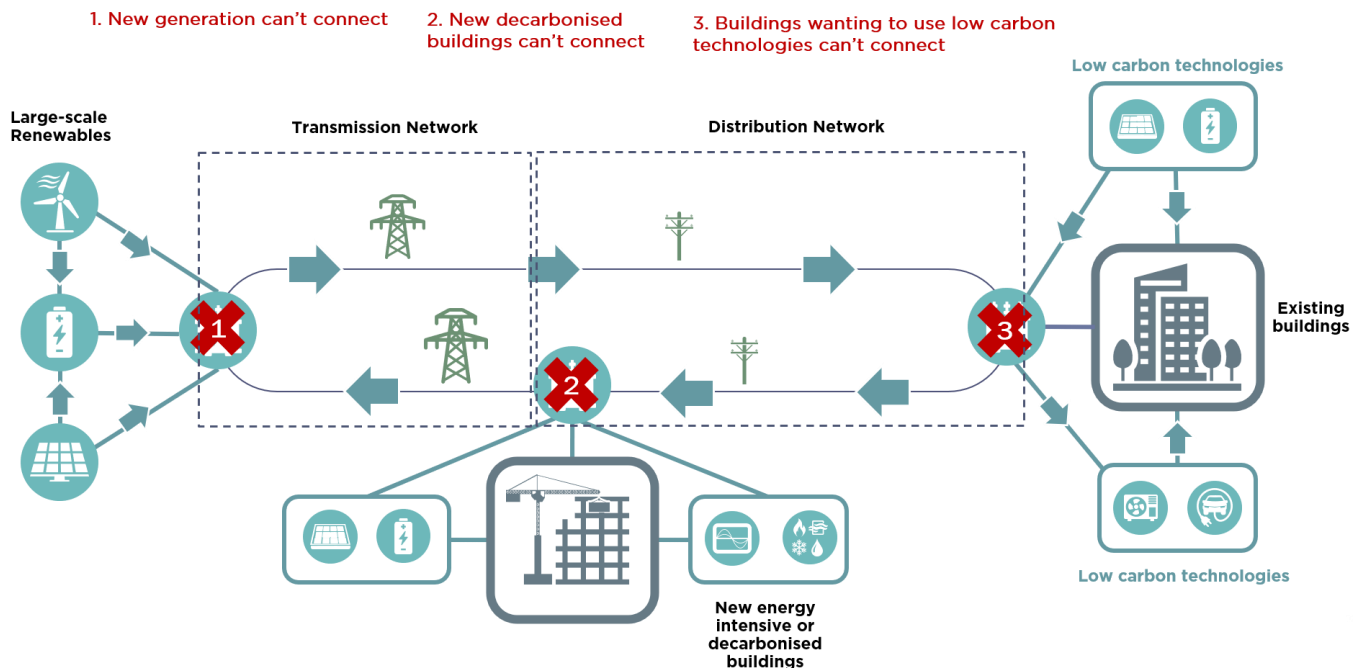
## THE IMPACT:

- Queues to connect to the local network in the Central South extend up to the late 2030s for both generation and demand
- This is affecting the growth of decarbonised new buildings for the universities and hospitals in the region

## WE NEED MPs TO HELP US:

- Speed up the planning system to deliver vital new electricity infrastructure in the Central South
- Update the process for energy connections
- Include the Central South as one of the new dedicated Energy Plan Areas

## THE PROBLEMS WITH THE GRID



## SUPPORTING THE DECARBONISATION OF THE REGION

The Central South’s world class universities, ports and airports, and pioneers in the defence, aerospace, and maritime industries all play a vital role in the region’s prosperity.

There is a significant need to prioritise connections to the grid. Whilst National Grid has begun to overhaul the process for how generation projects are connected to the network, more needs to also be done to improve the process for connection demand for supply.

Providing the means to create an energy plan for the region as a whole, and securing funding to deliver infrastructure upgrades will enable the Central South to move swiftly on energy generation, storage and distribution of renewables, and connect new, decarbonised projects to the network, speeding up our journey to Net Zero.

## HOW TO BUILD MORE INFRASTRUCTURE



### OPPORTUNITY

Last month, Ofgem confirmed there would be up to 13 new bodies across Great Britain to work with local governments and energy networks to achieve regional decarbonisation.

Currently local energy planning is conducted by specific distribution area operators and local government. However, there is no active requirement for a local authority to produce a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP).

The Central South faces unique challenges to energy supply and demand across the entire region that need a more coordinated and strategic approach.

### THE CHALLENGE

The Regenerate South Action Group are asking the Government to help address some of the barriers faced, to unlock capacity within the energy sector.

These include:

- Freeing up the supply network from the existing ‘zombie’ schemes
- Providing funding to speed up upgrades to the existing network to enable new generation connections for renewables
- Including the Central South as one of the new dedicated Energy Plan Areas
- Or at least requiring the largest local authorities in the region to produce LAEPs.

We would like MPs to support the Central South’s goals to unlock energy in the region.

### SUMMARY

We are committed to unlocking the Central South’s energy potential to speed up decarbonisation in the region to make sure our communities and economy thrives. Whilst industries in the Central South want to connect the network to generate or utilise energy, they are hampered by the outdated process for connection and insufficient infrastructure.