DSO

DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM OPERATOR

Local Energy Flexibility – What could it deliver for your area? Webinar

4 November 2026



Lynne McDonald

Head of Local Net Zero



Housekeeping



Questions

Please use the chat to ask any questions throughout the presentations or raise your hand during the Q&A at the end

Recording

Please note this meeting is being recorded and transcribed

You will receive the recording and slides

Links and polls

You will receive links and polls in the chat.
Please engage with them

Agenda

	Session	Speaker
1	Welcome & introduction	Lynne McDonald, Head of Local Net Zero
2	What is flexibility? And why should local authorities care?	Ana Indjic-Ast, Flexibility Commercial Analyst
3	Who is making flexibility work?	
4	Choose your own adventure – ways to get involved	
5	What support do we offer?	
6	Short quiz	
7	Open Q&A	Lynne McDonald, Head of Local Net Zero Ana Indjic-Ast, Flexibility Commercial Analyst

You said, we did

You said...

- "Flexibility has always been a challenge to get our heads around"
- "Keen to understand better how we can access flexibility to further our low carbon ambitions"
- You'd like to see how Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) connect with flexibility

We did...

- ✓ Develop Guide with UK100 and ADE– Unlocking Flexibility Guide, A guide for local authorities. Created with local authority and wider stakeholder input.
- ✓ Made it easier to access support from our UK Power Networks DSO Flexibility team
- ✓ Launched the Regional Energy Dashboard

Today: demystifying flexibility and connecting you to the right support, wherever you are on your flexibility journey.

Ana Indjic-Ast

Flexibility Commercial Analyst

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What is flexibility?

- Flexibility is the **ability to change when electricity is used or generated**

- Participating homes and businesses can save money, while helping to reduce costs for everyone and connect more low-carbon technologies

Flexibility can look like:

✓ A time-of-use tariff

✓ A cheaper tariff, with devices scheduled on your behalf

✓ Requests to turn up or turn down when the grid is busy, in exchange for rewards

Where can flexibility come from?

1. Electric vehicles

- Home and on-street chargepoints
- Smart-charging + (in future) Vehicle to Grid
- Can benefit from moving charging overnight or to times of high renewable output



2. Electric heat

- Storage heaters, immersion heaters, heat pumps, heat networks, energy efficiency
- Can benefit from moving consumption away from peak times and/or to times of high renewable output



3. Batteries

- Home, community or grid-scale batteries
- Able to charge off-peak and discharge at peak



4. Buildings

- Eg leisure centres, schools, offices
- May have flexibility in processes or heating



Also: Unused land, flexible generators…

How can flexibility help local authorities?



Reduce electricity costs – for yourselves and/or local businesses and residents



Ensure there is sufficient network capacity to enable local growth



Minimise the need for expensive and carbon-intensive generation



Improve the business case for electrification

How much can flexibility be worth?



+

National Flexibility Opportunities

Who is making flexibility work?

Residents

- **Opportunity for Local Authorities:** Consider raising local awareness of flexibility with residents (e.g., Barnet Zero)

Local Authority	Number of flexible assets registered
Essex	47,063
Kent	39,472
Surrey	23,711
Suffolk	21,616
West sussex	13,812
Cambridgeshire	11,978
Hertfordshire	7,917
Brent	7,110
Peterborough	4,186
Camden	3,914
Adur & Worthing	3,585
East Cambridgeshire	3,547
Brighton and Hove	3,524
Sutton	3,397
Lewes	2,349
South Oxfordshire	627
Hammersmith and Fulham	514
Kensington and Chelsea	215
City of London	35

Who is making flexibility work?
Buildings

Financial Times building in London

- Under long-term contract with UK Power Networks through aggregator
- 180kW of flexibility through air-handling, chillers, fan coils and other non-essential demand
- 63 tonnes CO2 reduction
- Zero impact on occupants
- Read for about it in our press release



Who is making flexibility work?
Councils with ‘spare’ land

- Some councils are working with energy developers to turn unviable land (as small as two car parking spaces) into a recurring or one-off revenue stream
- In this model, councils do not need to fund or operate the flexible asset
- AMP case study

Alternatively, some local authorities have invested in their own flexible assets, e.g., West Sussex, working with their supplier or aggregator to operate them







Choose your own adventure

Less effort

More effort

Flex Champion

- Become a local flexibility champion: raise awareness of flexibility among residents

Flex Enabler

- Make flexibility an expectation of council contracts (e.g., with Charge Point Operators)
- Lease unwanted council land for batteries

Flex Participant

- Participate in markets directly using council buildings or assets
- Work with an independent aggregator to gain rewards without changing supply arrangements
- Work with your supplier to get a better tariff through flexibility



What support does UK Power Networks DSO offer?

Guidance and capability-building

- Unlocking Flexibility Guide, a practical guide to getting started aimed specifically at local authorities, produced in collaboration with UK100 and the ADE
- We support Flex Assure, a directory of accredited aggregators
- **Guide to local balancing (P441)** – coming soon!

DSO flexibility tenders

- Twice a year, we advertise our long-term flexibility needs, offering contracts up to 3 years
- Our next flexibility tender will launch later this month
- Register here to join the flexibility mailing list
- If we need flexibility in your area, you can book 30 minutes with us here

Innovation

- **SNUG** working with Hammersmith & Fulham and Norwich City to reward energy efficiency installs in social housing
- **Neighbourhood Watts** exploring value and blueprints for community-led flexibility. Planning for local trials in 2027

Useful resources and next steps

Flex Champion

Read the practical **Unlocking Flexibility Guide** and share it with others in your local area

Promote awareness of flexibility among local residents and businesses.

Book a one-to-one if you have questions about getting started.

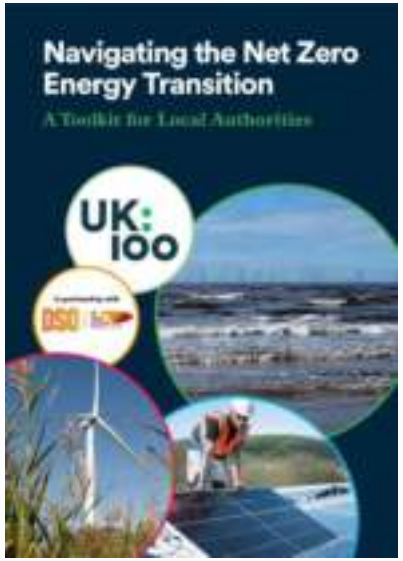
Flex Enabler

Book a one-to-one for more information on building flexibility into council contracts, such as those with Charge Point Operators.

Flex Participant

Have assets in mind? **Book a one-to-one** with our Flexibility team.

Join the Flexibility Forum on Tuesday 2 February 2027 (afternoon).



Additional resources

Explore our main flexibility resources:

Flexibility resources - Your Local Net Zero Hub

Tender Hub - UKPN DSO

Want to discuss more with us?

Contact the DSO Local Net Zero and Flexibility teams to arrange a 1-2-1 session

Click here to contact us