

Report to: Cranbrook Placemaking Group



Date of Meeting 16 September 2024

Document classification: Part A Public Document

Exemption applied: None

Review date for release N/A

Electricity supply

Report summary:

It is the responsibility of National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) to determine how and from where the expansion areas of Cranbrook will be provided with an adequate electricity supply. The network in the locality is relatively constrained and will require new reinforcement works in order to deliver such supply. NGED have been actively looking at how to manage the forthcoming demands at Cranbrook and in the wider West End of East Devon.

Is the proposed decision in accordance with:

Budget Yes No

Policy Framework Yes No

Recommendation:

1. That the Cranbrook Placemaking Group notes the work of National Grid Electricity Distribution in seeking to ensure that there is adequate network capacity to cater for the electrical loading arising from the expansion of Cranbrook.

Reason for recommendation:

The statutory responsibility for electricity supply lies with NGED and is a strategically important component for the timely and successful expansion of the town.

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Portfolio(s) (check which apply):

- Climate Action and Emergency Response
- Coast, Country and Environment
- Council and Corporate Co-ordination
- Communications and Democracy
- Economy
- Finance and Assets
- Strategic Planning
- Sustainable Homes and Communities
- Culture, Leisure, Sport and Tourism

Equalities impact Low Impact

Climate change Low Impact

Risk: Low Risk;

Links to background information None

Link to [Council Plan](#)

Priorities (check which apply)

- A supported and engaged community
 - Carbon neutrality and ecological recovery
 - Resilient economy that supports local business
 - Financially secure and improving quality of services
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Report in full

1. Formerly known as Western Power Distribution, National Grid Electricity Distribution (NGED) is the regional electricity distribution division of National Grid. They are responsible for distributing electricity across the south west (and other regions of England and Wales).
2. Electricity can also be distributed via an Independent Network Distribution Operator (IDNO), who is a company licenced by OFGEM to own and operate electricity networks. They are responsible for all future operation, maintenance and fault repairs on the network they own. They may also choose to construct their own networks. At Cranbrook to-date it is an IDNO (GTC) who have been constructing and operating the electricity network for the New Community partners site.
3. There is a third type of company that can build electricity networks and these are known as an Independent Connection Provider (ICP). They have to build to agreed standards and quality for adoption either by an IDNO or by NGED.
4. Works to build an electricity network or new connections to a network are split into 'contestable' and 'non-contestable'. Contestable works are the elements of works that can be undertaken by an ICP or IDNO rather than NGED. Non-contestable works are those that must be completed by NGED or their appointed agenda. Of relevance to the topic of electricity supply to Cranbrook, only NGED can design upstream reinforcement works associated with new connections/networks and determine the point of connection to the electricity distribution system.
5. The existing electricity network in the locality of Cranbrook will require reinforcement in order for the expansion area developments to be provided with an adequate supply.
6. Officers have been having discussions with NGED for a few years now about how they plan to reinforce the network to ensure that there is going to be adequate and timely supply of electricity not just for the expansion of Cranbrook but also for other nearby developments in the West End.
7. Thoughts on how best to achieve such network reinforcement are dependant upon the total electrical load required to serve the developments and also the timescales for ramping up to the total demand.
8. In proposing to continue with the use of a district heating system for Cranbrook's expansion areas, electrical demand and loading will be significantly lower than the alternative of utilising electrified heating and hot water systems (e.g. air source heat pumps). This has the benefit of spreading energy demands across technologies and lowering the electrical load in a part of the district that already has network constraints. At the time of writing, the council has not given final sign off to the business case for the district heating interconnector project and has not begun procuring a new energy service company (ESCO) for the expansion areas; these delays have presented some uncertainty for the developers of the expansion areas in calculating their required electrical load. It is anticipated that Cabinet will receive a paper relating to these projects by the end of 2024.

9. NGED representatives are going to attend this meeting of the Cranbrook Placemaking Group to update committee members on their current plans for network reinforcement and what the timescales for these works are.

Financial implications:

There are no direct financial implications resulting from the report.

Legal implications:

The legal issues are covered in the report (2855/Sept/ALW)