



Planning Reform  
Achieving Effective Engagement  
for Major Energy Infrastructure  
Projects

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E.ON UK

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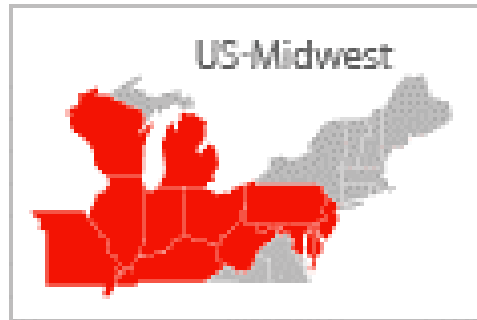
## 3. The Planning Regime

- Current framework
- New proposals

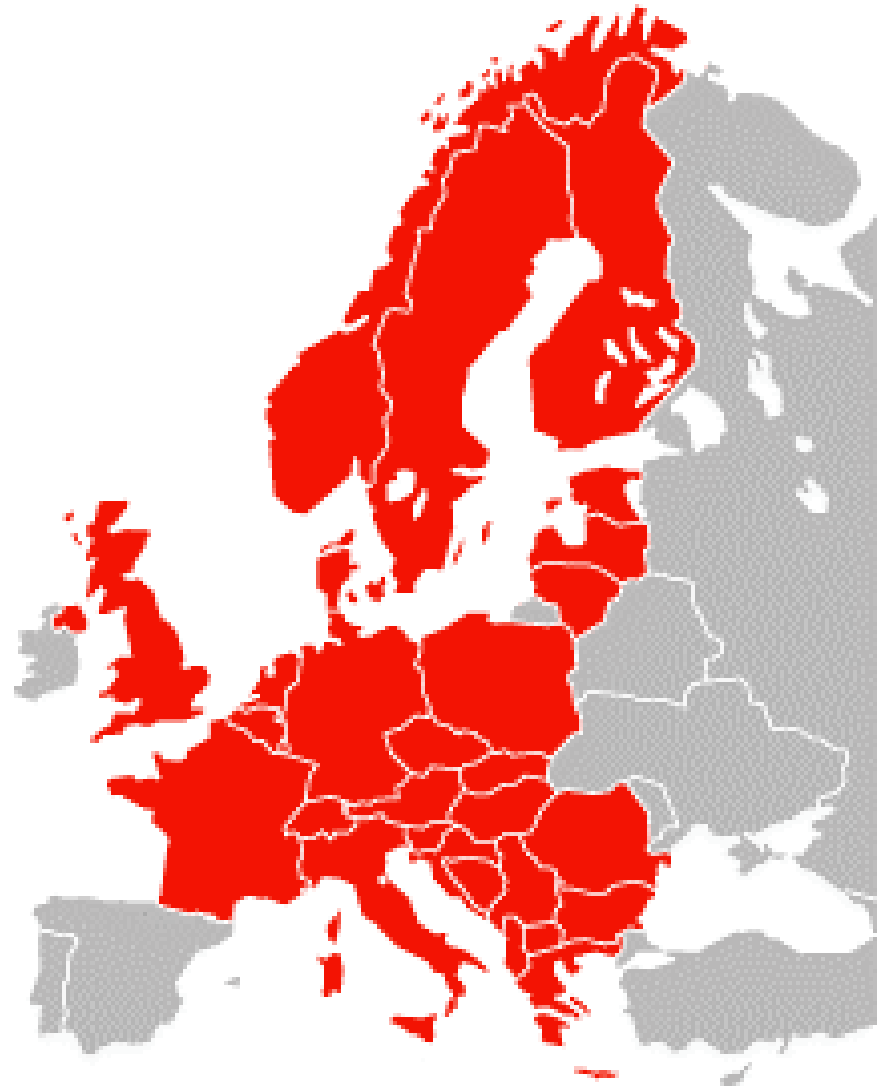
## 4. What is needed

- The 'take home' messages

## E.ON



- world's largest investor-owned energy service provider
- Electricity generation, transmission, distribution & retail
- Gas extraction, transmission, distribution & retail
- Annual sales of £33 Billion
- 70,000 employees



# E.ON UK



## What do we want from 'energy'?

### The Basics...

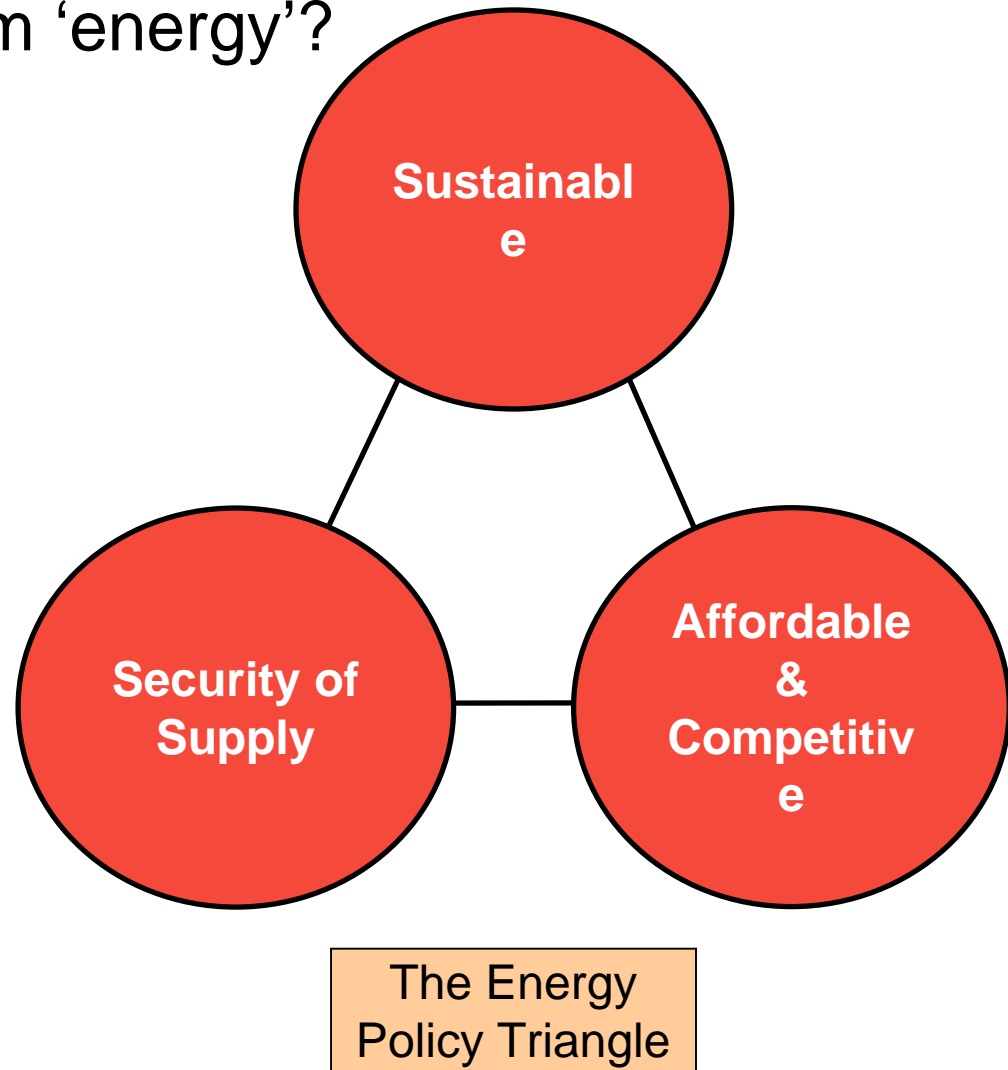
- Heat
- Light
- Affordability
- Reliability

### Quality of Life...

- Labour saving appliances
- Communication
- Entertainment

### The Big Issues...

- Sustainability & Environment
- Employment
- UK Competitiveness
- Independence / security



# What do we get from Energy Projects...?

## Quality of Life:

- Impact on our landscape
- Loss of wilderness / tranquillity
- Increased traffic
- Pollution

## Economic impact:

- House Prices

## Emotional Impact:

- Disturbance
- Worry
- Frustration
- Disenfranchised

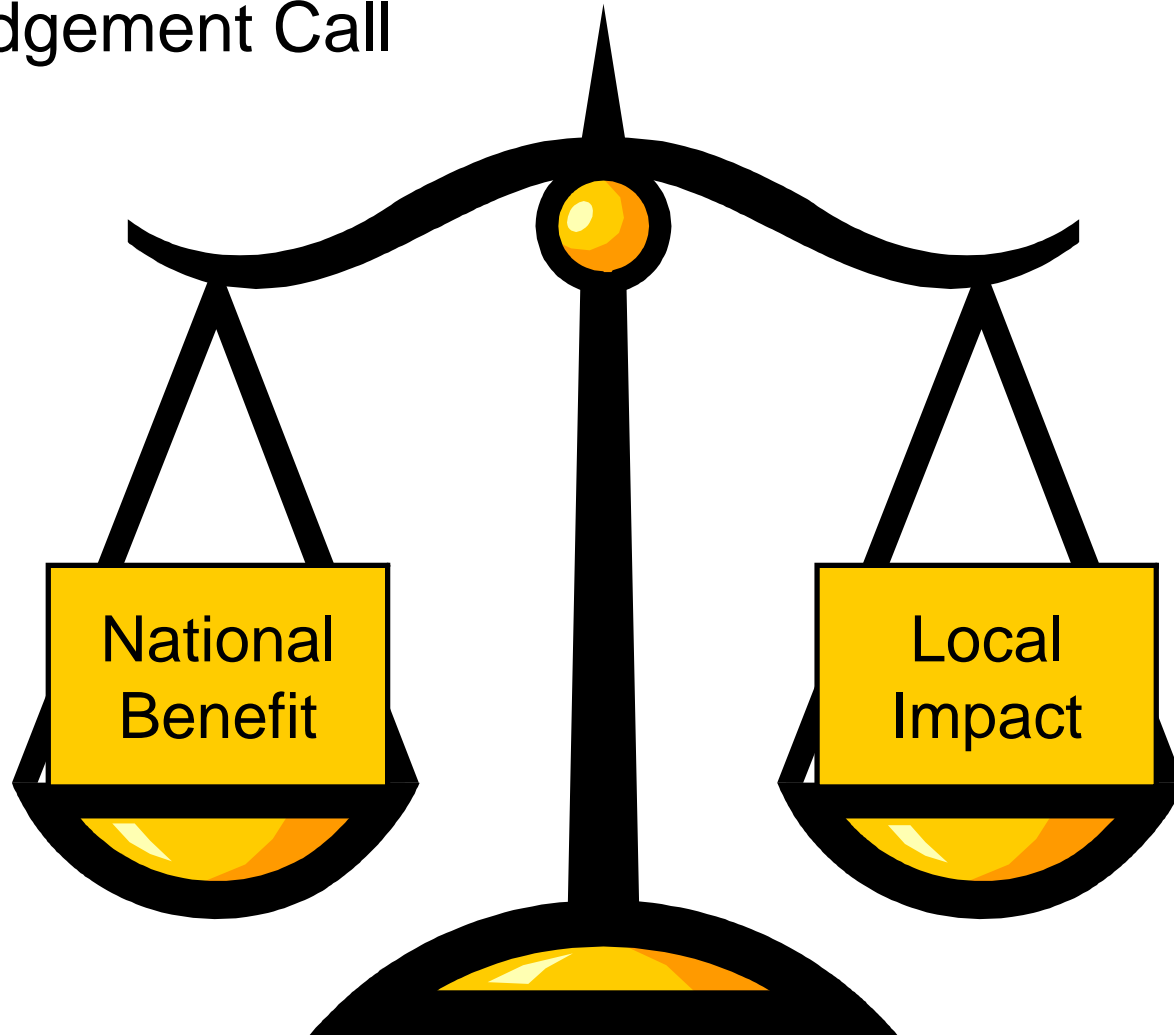
Table 3: Public attitudes towards hypothetical developments being proposed in their area

	Strongly oppose or oppose	Somewhat oppose	Somewhat support	Strongly support or support	Net opposition
Waste collection/land fill site	80	6	3	9	-73
Power plant or utility	77	6	5	8	-70
Quarry	75	7	5	7	-70
Office	53	14	11	17	-39
Retail park	54	7	9	27	-24
Department store	50	8	9	29	-19
Supermarket	50	7	10	31	-16
Social residential – flats	39	13	15	27	-10
New road project	36	8	15	36	7
Govt office, church, non-profit	33	7	20	34	13
Private residential – housing	24	9	23	38	28
School	10	8	15	61	54

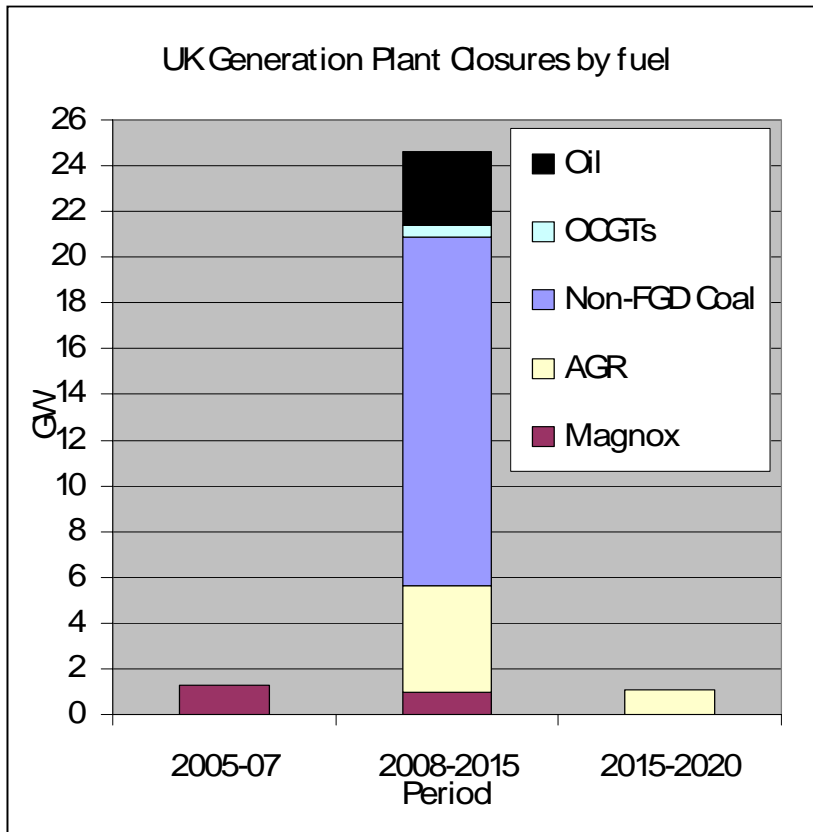
Source: Saint Index, March 2006<sup>67</sup>

*Barker Review: 3 in 4 people would strongly oppose new energy infrastructure...*

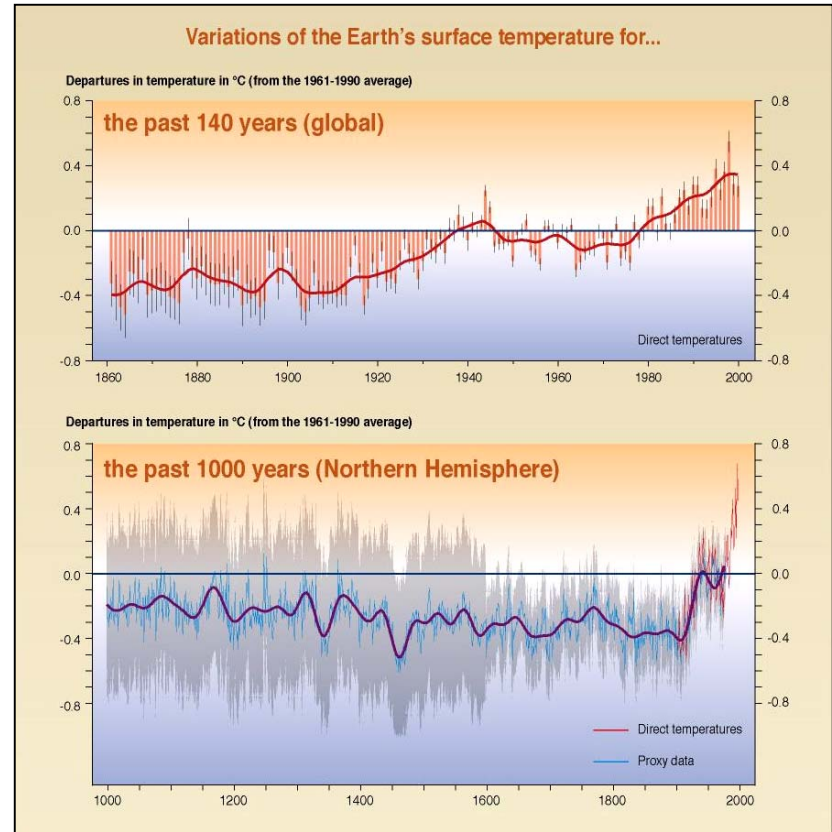
## The Judgement Call



# Five minutes to Midnight...?



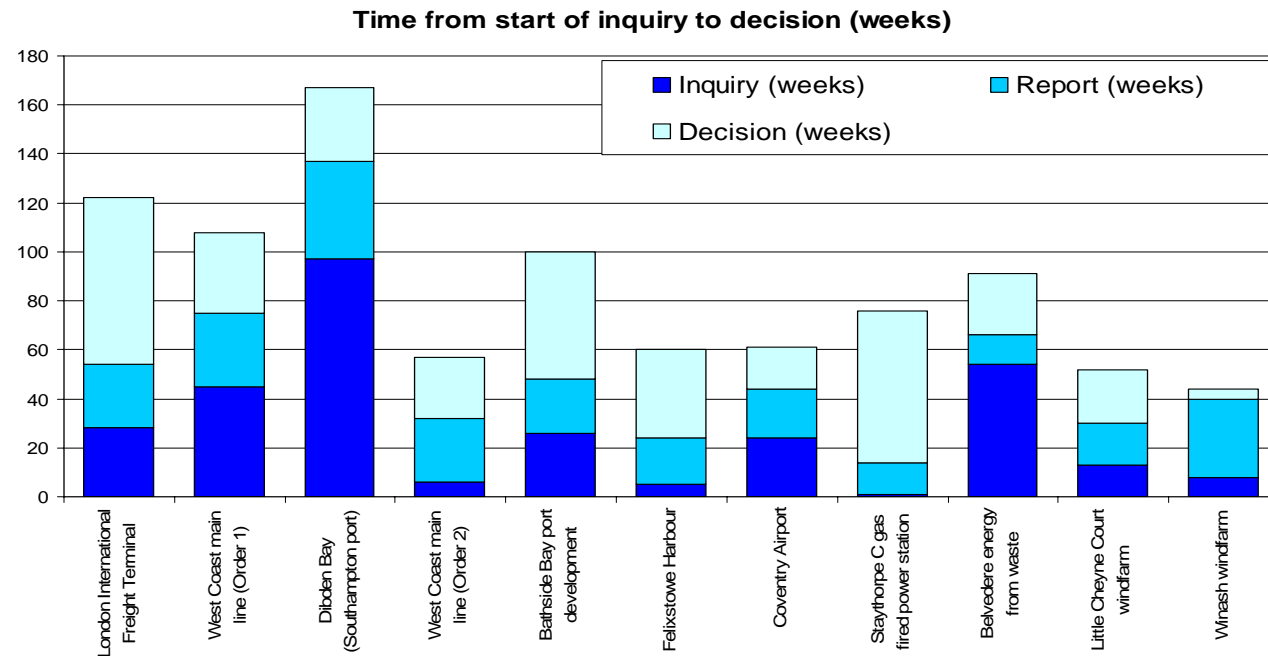
The UK needs re-wiring...



...and it must be low carbon.

# The Present Planning Regime is not delivering

- Complex
- Inaccessible
- Slow
- Inefficient
- Uncertain
- Inconsistent



**This is bad for everyone – not just business...**

## The current regime for new energy infrastructure (i)

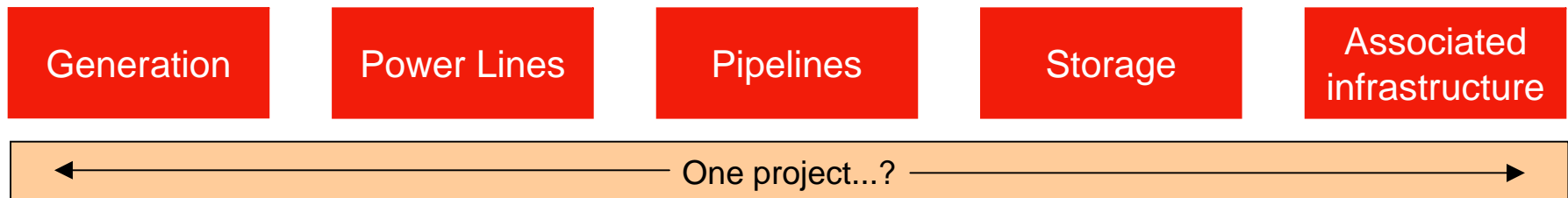
### **Spatial Planning, Policy and Guidance:**

- National, Regional and Local Policy / Plans; Supplemental policy; Guidance; Circulars
- Stakeholder policies / attitudes / campaigns

### **Consenting Processes:**

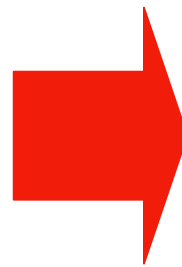
- Power stations could be consented by DBERR via the Electricity Act 1989 (Section 36) OR the Energy Act 1976 OR by the LPA via the TCPA depending on the station's size and fuel;
- In addition to the above, offshore power stations could also be consented via the Transport & Works Act 1992, and will need further licences (such as FEPA from DEFRA);
- Power lines could be consented by DBERR via the Electricity Act 1989 (Section 37) OR the LPA via TCPA depending on size and length. They could also have permitted development rights under a number of various exemptions and circumstances;
- Gas storage sites may be consented by the LPA via TCPA, or by DBERR via the Gas

## The current regime for new energy infrastructure (ii)



### Community Engagement

- Definition of a 'project'
- One Project – many consents
- Different consultation processes
- Different decision-making bodies
- National policy + Local Impacts



- Too complex
- Too lengthy and therefore costly
- Little transparency
- No perceived accountability
- Politically influenced



Lack of public trust in the consultation process

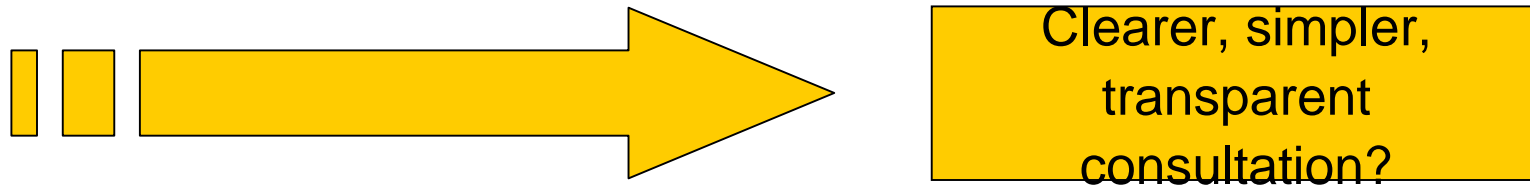
## The New Proposals

### Consolidation of consenting routes:

- Single consenting process and decision-making body (IPC)
- Single 'projects' where possible
- Prescribed pre-application consultation

### Separation of national policy debates from local impact debates:

- National policy set through National Policy Statements  
Allows national debate, including parliamentary scrutiny, to set policy
- Individual consenting processes concentrates on local impacts **only**
- Political influence removed as IPC is independent.



## Points to note

- There is urgency in developing significant amounts of new energy infrastructure
- The current regime is ineffective and inefficient
- There is a real risk that it will not deliver

## **BUT**

- The new regime must be accepted as an improvement for all stakeholders
- Strong, transparent and effective engagement is required
- Paralysis due to conflicts is the worst possible outcome



Can we work together  
to get this right?