

**Mayor of London response to the consultation of the treatment of electricity storage within the planning system.**

It is right that planning issues affecting local communities in London fall under the local planning regime. I, and London's borough councils, must retain oversight and planning consent, in consultation with local communities, of electricity storage projects appropriate for London.

Government intervention is needed to address the confusing complexity, potentially stifling and uneven playing field for electricity storage in the planning system.

The approach to amending the Planning Act 2008 to establish a new capacity threshold (less than 50MW individually, but over 50MW in combination) for composite projects, including storage and another form of generation, to fall under the local planning regime is appropriate.

I want London to be zero a carbon city by 2050 and to help achieve this aim I made a commitment in the London Environment Strategy to develop clean and smart, integrated energy systems utilising local and renewable energy resources.

I have been promoting and supporting the rollout of electricity storage through my Energy for Londoners programme. By using electricity storage with solar PV, demand side response, electric vehicles and kick starting a domestic flexible energy market, the FlexLondon Challenge and Home Response projects aim to start to unlock the 1GWe of demand side flexibility available in London. I am requiring all new developments to consider the install of electricity storage to bring forward smart energy systems that benefit Londoners.

I will continue to promote and support the deployment of electricity storage to help decarbonise, decentralise and democratise London's energy system, but Government must play its part above and beyond my existing activities and proposals. I will work with Government to ensure London's energy system is smart and flexible to allow more clean energy to be integrated, bring forward the electrification of heat and transport and reward the flexible use and trading of clean energy, particularly by communities in London. Ultimately this should keep fuel bills more affordable for Londoners.