Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH)
Board Meeting – 9 September 2026

Conducted via online conference.

Attendees

Paul Jefferiss – Independent GSENZH Board Chair
Janice Gotts – Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority (CPCA) Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)
Natasha Marshall – CPCA Finance Business Partner
Peter Coates – CPCA Interim Strategic Finance Business Partner
Sarah Gilbert - Central England Regional Advisory Board Chair (Oxfordshire County Council)
Tom Day – East Regional Advisory Board Chair (Essex County Council)
Carolyn McKenzie – South East Regional Advisory Board Chair (Surrey County Council)
Hannah Jameson – London Councils
Mary Aladegbola – NHS England
Swapna Uddin – Department for Energy and Net Zero (DESNZ) Greater South East Regional Local Net Zero Programme Lead
Steve Baggs - GSENZH Local Net Zero Programme Lead (North)
Sam Bosson – GSENZH Energy Project Manager
Steve Cains - GSENZH Local Net Zero Programme Lead (South)
Sinead Desmond – Regional Projects Programme Lead
Peter Gudde - GSENZH Local Net Zero Programme Lead (North)
GSENZH Data & Information Manager
Paul Kemp – GSENZH Local Net Zero Accelerator and Public Sector Decarbonisation Programme Lead
Maxine Narburgh – GSENZH Regional Director
Erica Sutton – GSENZH Hub Support Coordinator

Minutes

NOTE: The minuted discussion in this document is based on the GSENZH Board Pack 09.09.2026 unless otherwise stated.

1. Apologies, Introductions and Conflict of Interest

1.1 Apologies

- Robert Emery – CPCA, Assistant Director Finance
- Jennifer Panting – DESNZ, Head of the Local Net Zero Hubs Programme
- Tim Smith - GSENZH Strategic Stakeholder Manager
- Joe Winter – GSENZH Head of Operations
- Simon Wyke has left the Greater London Authority (GLA) and recruitment for a replacement representative is ongoing.

1.2 Introductions

- The meeting welcomed Peter Coates, CPCA, who will in future take on the role of Finance Manager for GSENZH and attend GSENZH Board meetings.
- Natasha Marshall, CPCA will continue to support GSENZH finance management. On behalf of the Board, the Chair thanked Natasha Marshall for her work to date for the Hub.

1.3 Conflicts of Interest

- The Chair requested that any major changes concerning conflicts of interest since the previous meeting 03.06.2026 be made known to the meeting by Board members.

- **Board Discussion:**
- No conflicts of interest were raised by Board members.

2. Minutes, Actions & Matters Arising

2.1 Minutes

- **Board Decision:** The GSENZH Board minutes 03.06.2026 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.
- **Action 1:** Chair to sign off the minutes as agreed.

2.2 Actions

- A verbal update on actions in progress was provided by Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH Regional Director and the following items were highlighted. The references listed below in bold relate to the GSENZH Board action log:
- **24/07/2025 A7:** Regarding the action to maintain a watching brief on the emerging details about the solar PPAs and schools issue and keep the Board updated, this is ongoing.
- **22/01/2026 A15:** Regarding the matter of how to feed NHS infrastructure and energy planning/data into the plans of local authorities/ Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP), this feeds into the GSENZH systemic challenge business case on LAEP interoperability. The business case is set out in the GSENZH Board pack 09.09.2026.
- **22/04/2026 A6:** Regarding contact with Cathy McClay and Chris Stark about supporting the messages to government about the risk to and solutions for the delivery of net zero/growth, this is an open action and advice is being sought from Patrick Allcorn, DESNZ, Head of Local Net Zero Demonstration and Delivery.
- **03/06/2026 A7:** A reminder will be circulated by email to GSENZH Board members of the opportunity for them to propose any case studies or knowledge products they would like to be funded under the Case studies/ knowledge transfer £40k budget allocation. Feedback has also been sought from Regional Advisory Board members.
- **22/07/2026 A2:** The escalation of strategic risks NET0011 and NET0014 is in development as part of the suite of escalation letters that are being prepared by Maxine Narburgh and the GSENZH team to send to government ministers.
- **22/07/2026 A6:** A reminder will be circulated to the GSENZH Board members who have not already responded to confirm approval of the DESNZ Quarter 1 report by email (see Board Pack Standard Agenda 22.07.2026.

2.3 Matters Arising

- The following items were introduced by Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH Regional Director:
- **DESNZ Local Net Zero Hub Conference, 4 November 2026, Liverpool:** This is open to Hub staff and key stakeholders and the invitation is extended to Board members. Those wishing to attend were asked advise the Hub immediately.
- **Local Net Zero Hubs Future –** DESNZ has made a submission to government ministers about the future of the Local Net Zero Hubs that proposed either their closure or their funding until the end of the current Parliament. Ministers are minded to keep the Hub programme post April 2027, but this is not a long-term settlement, and instead another transition year is proposed with funding for 2027-28. As yet there is no information about the scale of the budget or ministerial priorities. We need to land the escalations identified by the GSENZH Board and being developed by the Hub with the new ministers concerned to ensure that the challenges to local net zero delivery are recognised and a plan is put in place to support them. We need to continue services during the transition period and have enough money to deliver them. Concerning the Accountable Body

issue, a one-year financial settlement will make a relocation from CPCA to an alternative authority difficult. We are preparing a paper for the CPCA Board to apprise them of the situation. Janice Gotts, CPCA will liaise with the Mayor's Office to establish what his view is under the circumstances.

- **Action 2:** Janice Gotts, CPCA SRO to update the GSENZH Board on any feedback from the CPCA Mayor about the Accountable Body relocation in light of the single-year settlement expected from DESNZ 2027-28.
- **Board Discussion:**
- Chair: As part of the discussion of GSENZH Board agenda item 6. Business Case Approvals, members should consider, whether this update changes anything. My past experience suggests that this process will continue beyond 2028 whether incremental or long-term. It is difficult to plan under the current circumstances.
- Janice Gotts, CPCA SRO: The 2027 Comprehensive Spending Review will give us a longer term view and at that point hopefully we will know more beyond the next Parliament.

3. RAB Chairs, London representatives, NHS – Updates

- **Mary Aladegbola, NHS England -** We have made significant progress with estate decarbonisation, moving from strategy to delivery. An emerging constraint is grid capacity and we have done mapping to inform engagement with LAEP and Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP). We have a system-level view to 2028 of capacity constraint and cost. We will be able to share this information across the NHS soon. Regional representatives and Trust leads are engaging.
- We are exploring alternative finance e.g. energy as a service and the governance for that. We need to understand how the commercial and financial structures work.
- We are preparing for the next Spending Review in terms of resource. The last budget indicated PPPs were a possibility so we want to prepare for that.
- The Hub resource across other regions is significantly dwindling. Alongside this, a key activity is the Worthing Hospital heat network which is moving towards practical completion and other hospitals are engaging with heat network developers about connections but support is not available.
- We have launched a Tiger Team, a regional energy management support service at Trust level. This is to help with pipeline development, capital investment and optimisation of systems, and we will take insights into the Hub's energy management week.
- **Board Discussion**
- Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH: DESNZ has asked all Hubs to state what they are doing for public sector decarbonisation support; the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with DESNZ for it has closed.
- **Action 3.** Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH to discuss with Mary Aladegbola, NHS England the requirement for public sector decarbonisation support for the NHS and for it to be replicable across the Local Net Zero Hubs, to inform making it visible to DESNZ via a specific escalation.
- **Hannah Jameson, London Councils –** The Secretary of State for Energy Security visited Hammersmith and Fulham social housing retrofit work by Warmer Homes London, followed by a roundtable discussion about devolution to scale energy efficiency.
- We have been offered additional funding for solar for social housing, and there has been discussion around plug-in solar for low-income households.
- Our regional Energy Mission has been launched: this includes heat pump take-up acceleration, public support is to be addressed via a working groups, plus innovation work to address barriers.

- Governance for energy: RESP governance is in progress and sectoral working groups are being set up.
- London Councils are continuing work with Boroughs on capacity and capability, including practitioner groups. We are to run one on energy, which is relevant for Hub engagement.
- Research on successful delivery models for energy to scale energy projects, also relevant to the Hub.
- Warmer Homes London is in its second year. It will publish a business plan and the learning from last year's retrofit work, and this will be useful for others.
- **Board Discussion:**
- Tom Day, East RAB Chair: What is the timescale for the research on delivery models for energy to scale energy projects?
- Hannah Jameson: The report is likely to be ready in October/November 2026.
- **Action 4:** Hannah Jameson, London Councils to share with GSENZH Board members the analysis and report from the London Councils research on delivery models for energy to scale energy projects.
- **Sarah Gilbert, Central England RAB Chair (Oxfordshire County Council) –** Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport
- We are continuing to work on RESP representation.
- Alongside that we have done work with the University of Oxford on regional energy planning. NESO and DESNZ have been interested in the findings.
- **Carolyn McKenzie, South East RAB Chair (Surrey County Council) –**
- For the next meeting, key questions for discussion are around local government reorganisation (LGR) and devolution, for example, Surrey is going through unitary reorganisation, and how do we keep momentum. Also key priorities for the region, what would the projects and infrastructure initiatives be and how that links to energy planning.
- Surrey will present on its LAEP work and we will have a discussion about what others are doing and how that links to RESP and representation. Also how priorities link to spatial development strategies (SDS). We are doing work with Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) around embedding environmental outcomes, including energy and SDS. We want to identify gaps and how can we link up to fill them.
- I am concerned that momentum will drop. We have active strategic authorities in Sussex and we need to ensure that all the authorities can talk to each other. We want to look at how emerging authorities have energy enshrined and what significant positive action we can take.
- **Tom Day, East RAB Chair (Essex County Council) –** For our next agenda, we will include the Warm Homes Plan loan scheme to explore the range of views for example on local government supporting that.
- There is a change of administration in Essex and a step back from net zero. The Essex County Council team is going through a process of restructure and redundancy so we are putting in place legacy arrangements for our team's work. This includes engagement with district councils and community groups. Capacity and capability for energy in local government is becoming a key issue.
- We will discuss continuity of the RAB. Fiona Duhamel Deputy Chair is able to step up to be Chair.
- A lot of changes happening but there constructive conversation including with the Hub to maintain what has been built up in Essex.
- **Board Discussion:**
- There were no further questions and comments.

4. **DESNZ Update**

- The DESNZH update is covered in these minutes under section 2.3 Matters Arising.

5. **Great British Energy (GBE) Delivery Workplan - Update**

- This item was introduced by Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH Regional Director and Sinead Desmond, GSENZH Regional Projects Programme Lead.
- There is no update on the GBE MoU. However, the GBE external affairs team are having meetings today on communications and the MoU, so that is promising.
- The scale and timelines of the programmes are to be confirmed. The priority for Hub support is a wrap-around service for the Partnership Grant and Community Energy Grant. Allocation is evenly distributed across the Local Net Zero Hubs. We have flagged that it is not proportionate to the scale of our region and will impact on what we can provide.
- The work plan, which is commonly agreed among the Local Net Zero Hubs, has gone to GBE for consideration. The support activities are similar to those provided previously but are more formalised. These are pre-application support, pipeline support and partnership broking for the Partnership Grant. Also application assistance, technical support, project management and delivery support, monitoring and evaluation advice.
- Budget and resource allocation will be flexed depending on the timelines. We will have to move at speed around the application window. We will bring risks into the Board risk report if escalation is needed.
- **Board Discussion:**
- Tom Day, East RAB Chair: How far will the Hub or GBE take projects through the RIBA pipeline?
- Maxine Narburgh: That is an open question. We are being asked to do a wrap-around support for the GBE grant programmes. The capacity support for the project pipeline is funded through DESNZ. The future priorities of the Hubs are to be decided. Sinead Desmond has developed a work plan to set out what we will be doing on GBE grant programmes. The MoU is to be confirmed but we are not expecting the objectives to change.
- Sarah Gilbert, Central England RAB Chair: There is a closing window to March 2027, so what is the final date to utilise the grant money? The timescale raises an issue about viability and the good use of public money.
- Sinead Desmond: The project will get 12 months to deliver. The Hub offer for delivery support does not align with that timeline but conversations are ongoing.

6. **Business Case Approvals (decision)**

- This item was presented by Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH Regional Director.
- There are three propositions/business cases presented to the Board for discretionary funding with the aim of building capacity and momentum to address within the next six months the three strategic challenges agreed at the Board awayday 22.07.2026. The proposals will be rolled out alongside existing Hub services. They are pilots not permanent services and are viable in the next 6 months. The Board should also bear in mind the update from DESNZ on the future of the Local Net Zero Hubs received today (see section 2.3 Matters Arising).
- **Recommendation A:** Review and discuss the summary business cases detailed in Appendices 1, 2 and 3, item 6 in the GSENZH Board pack 09.09.2026, with a view to confirming approval or otherwise.
- **Challenge 1a: Strategic Energy Planning and Policy Frameworks (£47,000)** – Presented by Peter Gudde, Local Net Zero Programme Lead (North)

- **Board Discussion**
- Carolyn McKenzie, South East RAB Chair: This business case is very much needed. We need to keep on top of the outcome that is wanted and avoid rabbit holes, so that we can use the research to move the agenda forward.
- Peter Gudde: Agreed. We need to have dynamic evaluation of this and we have built in evaluation and we need to be flexible in its roll out.
- Carolyn McKenzie: We need to consider the role of the Hub in relation to NESO and the higher level that NESO is working at and how the Hub can link with that.
- Peter Gudde: Local authorities and the Local Net Zero Hubs have received invitations to the RESP governance process. We have a view on our role and will discuss that with NESO.
- Hannah Jameson, London Councils: There is quite a bit of variety and the challenges play out differently across the RAB areas. The work needs to look at the differences/similarities and should not assume that because London has an established plan that there are no issues. London should be included.
- Peter Gudde: London has been included in the Regen RESP governance work. London may have more developed structures but there are still challenges to overcome. The intention is to take a multi-plan approach.
- **Challenge 1b: LAEP Interoperability Service (£71,500)** – Presented by Steve Baggs, GSENZH Local Net Zero Programme Lead (North)
- **Board Discussion`**
- Carolyn McKenzie, South East RAB Chair: Will it identify projects that can be jointly delivered across LAEPs e.g. Surrey's relationship to London.
- Steve Baggs: Yes, the work will look at wider issues: the edge parts, other areas and the region.
- Sarah Gilbert, Central England RAB Chair: The work will address methodology issues and the problems include longevity: LAEPs are a moment in time and they need resource to be updated. This is a method question and can we build that in i.e. how can we hardwire longevity.
- Steve Baggs: This is a good point and we should add that into the research.
- Hannah Jameson: We do not want a standard LAEP methodology but we do need interoperability use cases to avoid drowning in the breadth. You could look at a comparative analysis of LAEP method. What we need at regional level is the ability to work across boundaries and therefore we need interoperability around the data. UK Power Networks are a LAEP support partner and this is where some of this analysis may have already been done. DESNZ is looking again at the requirement for LAEPs and we should ask them to check in on how this is progressing and be mindful of it.
- Steve Baggs: Good points and we will be working with the three DNOs in our area on this.
- Mary Aladegbola, NHS England: What is the data source here? What is the value of what would be delivered and the data gathered given the time limit that you have. Is there a need for reduced scope?
- Steve Baggs: We are not trying to create methodology or work on the data, we are trying to get more understanding. We have altered the scope to make it achievable. We can build on what is available.
- Tom Day, East RAB Chair: There are overlaps with the first business case e.g. how planning is disconnected and LAEP interoperability. The methodology between the two pieces of work need to explored the interdependencies.
- Steve Baggs: Good point there is some crossover. We are conscious of it and we will avoid overlap, repetition and we will coordinate.

- **Challenge 3 and 4 (combined): GSENZH Local Energy Delivery Readiness and Pipeline Aggregation Service (£170,000)** - Presented by Steve Cains, GSENZH Local Net Zero Programme Lead (South)
- **Board Discussion**
- Mary Aladegbola, NHS England: Aggregation alone does not guarantee scalability and attracting investment if projects are not the same level of maturity and RICS profile. What can we do to ensure better success?
- Steve Cains: The triage process will be developed to understand the viability, maturity, and deliverability to ensure the portfolio is a financially viable asset, not just a bunch of projects.
- **Action 5:** GSENZH to circulate to Board members the slide decks from the presentations on the three business cases with the minutes of the meeting.
- **Recommendation B)** Approve allocation up to the value of £288,500 external resource from budget CX0072 to fund the delivery of the business cases.
- **Board Discussion**
- Chair: A) Are these the right set of projects, and B) do we want to spend the amounts proposed to deliver in the context of broader discretionary spend.
- Carolyn McKenzie, South East RAB Chair: This is the right set of projects. Budget-wise look across them to see if there are any bits that can be done as a single package as there might be some efficiencies.
- Chair: All three projects reflect big challenges. Local delivery and pipeline aggregation is of interest to DESNZ. The other challenges and opportunities are the peer-to-peer learning and the national policy translator roles, which are not being prioritised, but we will continue to engage with them in other ways.
- **Board Decision:**
- A) Approve the three systemic challenge business cases and allocations as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3, item 6 in the GSENZH Board pack 09.09.2026:
  1. Strategic Energy Planning Integration (£47,000) 2. LAEP Interoperability Service (£71,500) and 3. Local Energy Delivery Readiness and Pipeline Aggregation Service (£170,000).
- B) Approve allocation up to the value of £288,500 external resource from budget CX0072 to fund the delivery of the business cases.
- **Action 6:** GSENZH to take forward the three systemic challenge projects (business cases) and budget allocations as set out in Appendices 1, 2 and 3, of item 6 in the Board pack 09.09.2026.

7. Budget Approvals (decision)

- This item was introduced by Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH Regional Director.
- The Board was asked to: 1. Note the commitments made on the budget to 30 September 2026 and approvals from DESNZ to extend the defrayal for Net Zero Go activities to 31 March 2027, and 2. Approve non-staffing resource allocation across programmes.
- **Recommendation A)** To approve the allocation of £495,542 non-staffing commitments and £129,123 contingency for the Net Zero Programme.
- **Recommendation B)** To approve the allocation of £75,000 non-staffing resource for Community Energy (GBECF) Programme
- **Recommendation C)** To approve in principle additional contingent labour to enable delivery of the GBE MoU, subject to confirmation of funding quantum and CPCA acceptance of the MoU.

- **Recommendation D)** To note £500K is in the process of transfer for financial advisory support to the GSENZH, to approve the allocation of these funds to staffing and procurements to meet the project objectives.
- **Recommendation E)** To delegate to the Regional Director the ability to move budget allocations across account codes within cost centres to meet MoU objectives in line with the parameters set out in item 7, GSENZH Board paper 09.09.2026.
- **Board Discussion:**
- Hannah Jameson, London Councils: What mandate does the strategic challenge business case work sit under and are there constraints around it and where the funding comes from to support it. Why is the transfer of funds from the South West Net Zero Hub coming to GSENZH, and is it in the context of Local Net Zero Accelerator (LNZA) continuation work that has already been agreed or is it still to be developed?
- Maxine Narburgh: The business cases all fit with the Hub's MoU Objectives. The West of England originally got the money as they had a financial lead, who was seconded to the Hub for LNZA but they moved role and so there is no one at South West Net Zero Hub to deliver it. GSENZH has already developed the LNZA continuation work, it has been peer-reviewed by the LNZA Board, we are delivery-ready, we are just waiting for the money to come though.
- **Board Decision:**
- **A)** Approve the allocation of £495,542 non-staffing commitments and £129,123 contingency for the Net Zero Programme.
- **B)** Approve the allocation of £75,000 non-staffing resource for Community Energy (GBECF) Programme.
- **C)** Approve in principle additional contingent labour to enable delivery of the GBE MoU, subject to confirmation of funding quantum and CPCA acceptance of the MoU.
- **D)** Note £500K is in the process of transfer for financial advisory support to the GSENZH, to approve the allocation of these funds to staffing and procurements to meet the project objectives.
- **E)** Delegate to the Regional Director the ability to move budget allocations across account codes within cost centres to meet MoU objectives in line with the parameters set out in item 7, GSENZH Board paper 09.09.2026.
- **Action 7:** Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH to take forward the 2026-2027 budget allocations, additional contingent labour, and use discretion to move allocations between cost centres as appropriate.

8. Warm Homes Plan Readiness – Consortia update

- This item was introduced by Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH Regional Director.
- This piece of work commissioned by the Hub from Regen and the Local Retrofit Hub has involved a survey (intelligence gathering) a workshop and a series support sessions, with the aim of helping local authorities to be ready for Warm Homes Plan delivery.
- The Hub will have a Warm Homes post going live soon, which will be our key resource, and the work is helping to inform the Hub's support offer to 31.03.2026, which is now being designed.
- Evidence gathered as part of the work includes that local authorities feel they have insufficient detail to plan, are facing political uncertainty and LGR, and the short funding cycles affect staff retention, the supply chain and consumer confidence.
- The Warm Homes Agency development has been affected by the change of prime minister, so it has been difficult to engage with them. Pursuing this relationship is a priority going forward.

- There is variation in what currently can be achieved across the region: Capability and capacity can be an issue. Some consortia are struggling to get business cases and engage residents. Data access, quality, governance, integration and cost can be problematic. Delivery of the Warm Homes Plan requires scale and therefore stronger relationships with private sector and other partners, which is a hurdle.
- Given the time window available to March, the Hub support offer will focus on DESNZ connections, peer-to-peer learning, bringing consortia together and putting learning on Net Zero Go. We cannot deal with current grant scheme issues. We are focusing on Warm Homes Plan delivery 2028 onwards, which will be a step change to place-based retrofit.
- **Board Discussion:**
- There were no questions.

9. Investment Readiness Scheme (IRS) Grant Report

- This item was introduced by Peter Gudde, GSENZH Local Net Zero Programme Lead.
- The IRS was set up three years ago to address the challenge of development finance. To get projects to delivery, the Hub provided a capacity support service, not just funding. The IRS has been evaluated, insights captured and video case studies planned.
- A total of £750k was distributed to eight projects, one of which was negatively affected by LGR and its funding of £75k was reallocated to other projects. One project has achieved delivery to date. The projects were mainly solar, and one wind, which got the Hub involved in the planning process. The projects all advanced through one stage of the RIBA stages, and one project advanced through two stages. This works out as a metric of £50-75k per stage.
- The Hub had a working stake in the projects and this allowed us to be closer to our clients. A key lesson learned was that having the external free support as well as the money added benefit and was better than funding alone. The IRS helped to unlock and unblock projects and maintain momentum rather than accelerating, which reflects the current background of changes experienced by our clients. It has also highlighted insights such as the need to talk to DNOs at an early stage to help move projects faster, and the necessity for a senior sponsor to support project progress.
- **Action 8:** GSENZH to circulate to Board members the slide deck from the report on the IRS programme with the minutes of the meeting.
- **Board Discussion:**
- There were no questions.

10. Risk Report

- This item was introduced by Aneta Kaczor, GSENZH Data and Information Manager.
- The Risk Report item Risk HUB0015 has been updated to reflect Board feedback and to consider where/whether system-level risks are within Hub control, add control measures, and to identify whether risks outside Hub control have any mitigation opportunities, to influence or escalate activity.
- **Board Discussion:**
- Chair: It does read more logically, thank you.

11. Finance Report

- This item was introduced by Natash Marshall, CPCA Finance Manager for GSENZH, who highlighted the following key points.
- Expenditure is aligned with approved budgets.
- Programmes are fully grant funded with no call on CPCA resources.

- Net spend is £3.4 million at 30.06.2026.
- To note: £150k commitment to Net Zero Go NHS expansion.
- Programme funding confirmed to end March 2027, future of Local Net Zero Hubs announcement expected by end September 2026.
- No actions are required from the Board at this time.
- **Board Discussion:**
- There were no questions.

12. Forward Plan

- This item was introduced by the Chair.
- The following items were identified from the Forward Plan for the next meeting:
  - Hub Future
  - Coalition of Place
  - Net Zero Neighbourhoods (London)
- The Chair proposed that the item on the Forward Plan on Hub Board Governance (Independent Board Chair Deputisation and recruitment of Board members from different sectors) be deferred to a later meeting pending further information on the Hub's future.
- The Chair proposed that a discussion on the direction of the Hub's relationship with key agencies such as NESO might be useful.
- Maxine Narburgh: A discussion on NESO and Regional Energy Strategic Planning (RESP) governance would be timely. We have been invited to have representation on the RESP governance boards/thematic groups. We would like to align with the other Local Net Zero Hubs on this. The support of strategic energy planning is part of our MoU Objectives.
- **Action 9:** Peter Gudde, GSENZH to elicit views from other Local Net Zero Hubs in relation to NESO RESP governance and provide an update to the next GSENZH Board meeting 21.10.2026.
- The Chair therefore proposed the following items be added to the Forward Plan/next Hub Board meeting agenda 21.10.2026:
  - A cross-Local Net Zero Hubs view on NESO and RESP governance/representation
  - Regen RESP governance insights (GSENZH commission)
- **Board Decision**:
- The above items as identified/ proposed by the Chair to be included on the next Board agenda 21.10.2026, and the item on Hub Board Governance to be deferred.
- **Action 10:** Maxine Narburgh, GSENZH to include the above agreed items on the next GSENZH Board agenda 21.10.2026.

13. Any Other Business

- No additional items were raised.

14. Dates of Future Meetings

- **Board Decision:** The next regular meeting of the GSENZH Board is scheduled for 21 October, 13:30-16:00, via online conference.
- The schedule for subsequent Board meeting dates/times is:
  - 2 December, 13:30-16:00
  - 20 January 2027, 13:30-16:00

Minutes approved as a true and accurate record by Paul Jefferiss, Independent Chair, Greater South East Net Zero Hub Board.	
SIGNATURE	**DATE**