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13th November 2018
[By email]

Re: Submission to the *Draft Plan Strategy for the Belfast City Local Development Plan 2030*

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for your email of 11th September 2018 in relation to the *Draft Plan Strategy for the Belfast City Local Development Plan 2030*. SONI welcomes the opportunity to comment and requests this submission is taken into consideration in the preparation of the plan.

SONI, which has been part of the EirGrid Group since 2009, is responsible for a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity – now and in the future. SONI develops, manages and operates the electricity transmission grid. This brings power from where it is generated to where it is needed throughout Ireland. The grid also supplies power to industry and businesses that use large amounts of electricity and powers the distribution network. The distribution network in turn supplies electricity to homes, businesses, schools, hospitals, and farms.

The electricity transmission grid's importance in supporting our society and economy should not be understated in the Local Area Plan. SONI values the inclusion of policies and objectives in the future plan to protect strategically important utilities infrastructure, such as the electricity transmission grid and to improve connectivity, in terms of electricity, within the city and to adjoining jurisdictions. All inclusions which support the a safe, secure and reliable supply of electricity are needed for SONI to successfully implement its strategy for grid development, which is imperative to meeting targets for electricity generation, climate change, and security of energy supplies.

In relation to *Policy ITU 3 Electricity and gas infrastructure*, SONI agrees in principle with this provision and the council's approach to essential electricity infrastructure project that will support economic and social development.

SONI would welcome the opportunity to meet with the planning team at Belfast City Council to explore the matters raised in this submission and formulate provisions in the plan that reflect the requirements of the electricity transmission network.



Should you have any comments in regard of this submission please contact the undersigned. SONI once again welcomes the opportunity to participate in the making of the new plan and look forward to making further submissions in due course.

Yours faithfully,

Tomas Bradley, MRTPI
Senior Planner

