

### Three stage application process

Eligibility questions

Expression of interest

Full application

There will be three stages to the online application process.

1. **Eligibility Questions** – Only AONBs and NPs may apply for projects in the vicinity of existing National Grid overhead power lines. If the questions are answered positively access will be given to the Expression of Interest form.
2. **Expression of Interest (EOI)** – Details on the Organisation applying, summary of project, budget, geographical area and acceptance of terms and conditions.  
A Grants Officer and Landscape Assessor will review the EOI and if

it fulfils all or some of the criteria, the applicant will be invited to submit a full application online.  
Unsuccessful applicants will be provided with feedback on EOI. Where appropriate advice will be given on how it could be improved and invited to resubmit, either for the current deadline or in the next window.  
3. **Full Application** – Applicant submits further information about the proposal, including a detailed budget, project plans, photographic evidence, OS maps etc. and input from local stakeholder/community groups if necessary.

### Assessment, investigation and administration

- Resubmit before deadline
- Resubmit in next window
- Application rejected

Accept or reject

Provide feedback

These will be reviewed by both the Grants Officer and Landscape Assessor, who will prepare application summaries and recommendations that will be presented to the LEI panel

LEI panel

Provide feedback

Report to Ofgem on the panel approved schemes in order for them to make a determination on the outputs and forecast costs

- Resubmit in next window
- Application rejected

The Grants Officer and Landscape Assessor will attend the panel meetings, providing additional information as required. The panel will make a recommendation on which projects should receive funding and set a grant amount.

The final decision on which projects receive funding will be made by Ofgem. National Grid will send a report to Ofgem detailing how the recommended schemes “Enact the VIP Policy” with supporting evidence about how the schemes are prioritised, what the costs (including scheme administration and National Grid overheads) are,

what the risks are, the delivery timescales and any other information that will allow Ofgem to make a determination on allowances to deliver the LEI investment.  
The Grants Officer will inform the applicants of the decision, and issue a grant agreement outlining terms conditions and any special requirements.  
Again unsuccessful applicants will be contacted by the Grants Officer who will provide feedback and if appropriate invite the applicant to reapply or direct them to alternative sources of funding.

Staged release and acknowledgement of funds

Applicant delivers project

Annual reporting to the panel

Monitoring & review visits to take place at 6, 12 & 18 month intervals

Annual reporting to Ofgem on progress and spending, to enable cost recovery through normal regulatory channels

Funds will be released by the Grants Officer and approved account signatories to the beneficiary organisations.  
Beneficiary organisations will acknowledge receipt of funds and begin working on their projects.  
Landscape Assessor undertakes progress and impact assessments at six, twelve and eighteen month intervals after the start of the project in conjunction with the Grants Officer.  
Annual reports providing information on all grants made, the impact and geographical areas covered will be prepared.

See Appendix 3 – Regulatory treatment for details of National Grid’s more detailed reporting requirements.