

## ESBN National Network, Local Connections Programme – Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	National Network, Local Connections Advisory Council
<b>Date / Time</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> December 2022, 11:30-14:00
<b>Location</b>	Hybrid – Merrion Hotel & Remote
<b>Attendees</b>	Ellen Diskin (ED), Fiona O'Donnell (FOD), Gerry Noone (GN), Aoife Bradish (AB) Carol Murphy (CM), Siobhán McHugh (SMH), Isabella Donnelly (ID),, Paddy Finn (PF), Eoin Kennedy (EK), Bobby Smith (BS), Robert O'Rourke (ROR), , Amanda Jane Gainsford (AJG), Richard Kelly (RK), Gillian Baker (GB), Conall Bolger (CB), Garry Purcell (GP), Killian O'Connor (KOC),
<b>Apologies</b>	Trevor Harron, Aidan Mahony, Jonathan O'Sullivan, John O'Shea (JOS), Dylan Ashe (DA), Enda Leavy (EL), Stevie Donnelly (SD) ) Declan Meally (DM)
<b>Compiled By</b>	Cathal O'Neill
<b>Agenda</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Welcome &amp; Introductions</li><li>2. Sign of Minutes &amp; Actions from previous meeting</li><li>3. NNLC Multi Year Plans, Consultation and Engagement Discussion</li><li>4. Beat the Peak – A security of Supply initiative<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Domestic</li><li>b. Commercial - Active</li><li>c. Commercial – Pledged</li><li>d. Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR)</li></ol></li><li>5. Connecting Renewables, Market engagement approach though pilot 4 Non-firm access</li><li>6. AOB</li><li>7. Close</li></ol>

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- GN welcomed all those who attended and provided an overview of the meeting's agenda.

### 2. Sign of Minutes & Actions from previous meeting

- Action 1 -Small scale generation (SSG) consultation – GN advised that ESB Networks have launched an SSG pilot, and the team are awaiting feedback from participants

#### 2.1 Older Council action items

- Community schemes for RESS 2 and future RESS 3 – update provided by FOD within section 5 (Connecting renewables)
- Topic of small-scale trading – action has been closed

### 3. NNLC Multi Year Plans, Consultation and Engagement Discussion

- ED stated that the initial timelines communicated at the previous advisory council meeting have been revised following feedback and direction from the CRU. CM added that the multi-year plan (MYP) documents were to be issued in September 2022, however the CRU have recently provided direction and have advised that certain milestones are prioritised, thus resulting in delays in publishing the final document.
- ED encouraged attendees to provide their feedback on the MYP documents, in particular the Flexibility MYP.

- CB stated that he'd be keen to learn the output and definition of the plans.
- GN added that positive progress has occurred in relation to the TSO/DSO and Visibility MYPs

### **3.1 Consultation roadmap**

- CB highlighted the need for sufficient time to evaluate the consultation documents. CB enquired if a consultation period could take effect w/c 02/01/23.
- SMH asked if consultation documents could be short, specific, and concise.
- ED proposed that a concise document is published for a six-week consultation period, while the detailed MYP which is submitted to the CRU is also made available to responders who may require additional information. Attendees agreed that this is a sensible approach.
- In relation to the TSO/DSO MYP – CB noted that it's great to see the engagement between EirGrid and ESB, however would prefer to see tangible output/deliverables because of the engagement.
- SMH suggested that section is included in TSO/DSO MYP, which refers to the previously published MYP and outlines what has changed.
- EK added that a section could be included in an upcoming TSO/DSO webinar, which provides an overview of the plan.
- **Action:** Proposed that the TSO/DSO webinar is scheduled for mid-January.
- In relation to webinars, SMH asked if webinars could be recorded and socialised with council members. ESB Networks team agreed that this can be facilitated, however added that certain sections i.e. (Q&A) may be retracted from recordings.
- **Action:** Webinars to be published online going forward
- CM encouraged attendees to spread awareness of NNLC initiatives and the advisory council within their respective organisation/professional network.
- **Action:** Stakeholder list to reviewed by NNLC and CM encouraged attendees to share organisations who'd they'd like ESB to engage in spreading awareness.
- SEAI encouraged that engagement with communities is done but includes digestible captions.
- **Action:** ROR to review proposed CRU timelines, based on consensus from Advisory Council that a 6-week consultation period beginning Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> was acceptable.

### **3.2 Flexibility**

- GN provided an overview of the revised plan on a page. The triangles shaded as green are milestones, which require acceleration.
- The IA BTP triangles – ED advised that these have been accelerated Q4'23 to Q1'23
- CB noted that he has a supplier for smart inverters and is willing to share details with Ellen if needed.
- PF enquired – what are the potential bottlenecks which will arise due to the acceleration of the BTP pilots. ED noted awareness and MPRNs are the biggest bottlenecks. In relation to MPRNs, it is in relation to customers (domestic) being aware of their MPRN. CM added that the customer portal is being revised as analytics, have shown that many customers are not signing up for initiatives, due to the fact customers do not know their MPRN.
- CM added that cybersecurity is a future bottleneck, which provides increased risk as the BTP scales. ED encouraged the advisory council to provide potential bottlenecks from their perspective.
- PF added that MPRN is great as it demonstrates proof of ownership. AB added that GDPR considerations are in place, which prevent ESB Networks in validating customer data via MPRN.
- GN added that the daily scheme will support NNLC in utilising tools for data validation.
- In terms of scaling customer engagement – CB enquired what analytics is in place to measure engagement. CM noted that BTP-D has been live for a month and that a data analytics suite is in place, which assesses performance of what is working and isn't working. Through the use of PowerBi and data analytics tool, a refinement process will occur to identify areas of

improvement. In terms of the domestic customer, GN added that comms will be shared with the minutes and encouraged attendees to share material within their organisation and communities.

- SMH enquired about initiatives for industrial and commercial customers. CM added that comms has been issued to organisations which meet the criteria.
- GN stated that programme is at the pivot cycle, where the standing up of the initiatives has been the primary focus, going forward the programme will be focussing on utilising the awareness campaigns to drive recruitment.
- In relation to the Carbon suite of products: ED noted that suite is focused on utilising flexibility to support greener products i.e., using flexibility assets to align with greener periods and using LEUs to leverage the behaviours to drive carbon reduction along incentivise investment in flexibility products to support green investment.
- Mini gen field pilots: ED stated that this is aimed to pilot the at home architecture by identifying clusters which will integrate with mini generators and smart inverters.
- Scaling national roll out – ED advised that this would focus on rolling out tenders following Mullingar.
- In relation to carbon – PF noted that there appears to be no carbon credits in place, which they can report them.
- ED added that carbon abatement mechanisms will be in place
- **Action:** PF and ED have a call to understand what specifics customers are keen to avail of in terms of carbon abatement. Subgroup meeting to help on definition for carbon abatement.
- ED provided an overview, saying that pilot 2 maybe progress at a slower rate, in order to prioritise national rollout and carbon suite.
- In relation to 4a/4b connections – ED advised that this may be delayed due to the lack of system engineering resourcing.
- **Action:** NNLC will provide clarity in relation the impact on the milestones which will be delayed.
- PF asked about MW related to carbon suite initiatives.
- SMH raised concern regarding instruction sets

### **3.3 Visibility**

- CB noted that this initiative is more an internal ESB N piece of work.
- ED provided an overview of the objective of the visibility plan.
- ED added that team are focusing on innovative methods and are on track from a budgetary perspective
- GP requested a overview of the visibility initiative, ED provided same.

### **3.4 TSO/DSO**

- ED provided an overview of the 4 workstreams which make up TSO/DSO piece of work; Whole of System, FNT, Security of Supply and Dispatch down and curtailment.
- CB said that his organisation is commissioning a piece of work on solar/wind co-relocation which could link into dispatch down and curtailment.
- FNT: focus is on co-ordination between both organisations in ensuring that they are supportive of ongoing pilots.
- EK added that webinars are in place and encouraged attendees to attend if they'd like to share their feedback, thoughts and needs to prioritise.

### **3.5 Pilots**

- **Domestic**
  - CM encouraged attendees and their networks to sign up.
- **Commercial – Active** – open tender is in place. Potential participants have been contacted.

- **Commercial – pledged** – AB said it's targeted at large organisations, to encourage their employees for *is this now a good time* and adopting good behaviours
- **CVR:** process is in place to target 1 in 3 sub stations which is helping with peak demand voltage. ED added that risk of end of line locations are being excluded. Local supervisors are also asked to provide their input

#### 4. **Connecting Renewables**

- FOD noted that a working group is in place, to assess suitable community projects which will meet the criteria. FOD added that the criteria have to be refreshed and adapted as initially there were no respondents that met that the initial criteria.
- Currently 25 projects which have been identified and qualified and 70% have been engaged to determine their appetite.
- Modification request to submit will be submitted
- FOD added that this is an operational pilot which aims to determine how much its neds to be turned down, how much
- FOD noted that the external input to how this pilot would evolve over time is encouraged to develop plan and offering and identifying blockers
- BS enquired about external stakeholder group – noted that he'd like to participate. He asked about storage and asked whether it's being considered as part of this pilot and whether flexible MEC option (in front of meter) and behind meter options could be considered. FOD noted that no storage projects qualified, however re-iterated industry to provide their input on how shape RESS. ED added that someone is nominated that can bring in a storage perspective and EV heat. Donal and Rory currently provide good insights on this.
- CM added that an open call will be occurring in early Jan 2023 and circulated amongst the group.
- Action: Names received and suggested representatives to be shared with the advisory council CM added that a terms of reference for this group would need to be confirmed. Conall added that precondition for criteria. Terms of Reference to be created and socialised.
- Hybrid working behind MEC is being developed by EK.

#### 5. **AOB**

- ED enquired whether storage representation on this council.
- **Action:** Review of representation to be shared
- Mullingar pilot: AB noted the PQQ is being issued this week and should be on eTenders for next Tuesday. 31 feeders are involved. 2 stage PQQ process is in place, 1st stage is qualify FSPs and 2nd phase is to qualify MPRNs. Focus is on targeting domestic customers.

**Meeting Closed**