

ESBN NN,LCP – Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date/Time	Advisory Council 5 25.07.2023, 14:00 – 17.00
Location	Hybrid – The Alex Hotel & Remote
Attendees	Ellen Diskin (ED), Eoin Kennedy (EK), Amanda-Jane Gainford (AJG), Aidan Mahony (AM), Cissie Liu (CL), Paddy Finn (PF), Cathal O’Neill (CON), Gerry Noone (GN), Gillian Baker (GB) Alan Keegan (AK), Kevin Doyle (KD), Brian O’Shea (BOS), Cormac Nevin (CN), Gary Purcell (GP), Kevin Brophy (KB), Alexandria Charmoli (AC), Conall Bolger (CB)
Agenda:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcoming & actions update• Beat the Peak update• 15-20% Flexibility by 2025• Call for Input Paper• CRU & ESB Networks – Longevity of Initiatives• Roundtable Discussion
Compiled By	Cathal O’Neill

Minutes

1. Welcoming & actions update

- AK welcomed all attendees to the meeting.
- AK added that going forward, he’ll be facilitating the Advisory Council sessions. AK thanked GN for all his work leading the Advisory Council to date. GN will now be supporting the propositions function within the NN,LC Programme.
- Minutes from the previous advisory council were approved.
- It was noted that actions 1-3 have been closed, while actions 4-7 remain open.
- Action 4 (re. €444 pricing approach) – CL provided an overview of the update and stated that the analysis document will be shared with members of the Advisory Council.
- **Action:** NN,LC Programme to confirm whether the pricing analysis paper that was submitted to the CRU can be shared with members of the Advisory Council.
- Action 5 - (re. long duration storage) ED stated that we are currently considering options for providing Advisory Council members with visibility of annual run hour analysis.
- Action 6 (re. flexible connections) – ED stated that engagement is still ongoing with relevant bodies.
- Action 7 (re. long duration storage) – GN stated that he presented at event in conjunction with Energy Storage Ireland, however further engagement is required.

2. Beat the Peak update

- **Domestic (Please refer to slides 10, 12 & 14 in the published PowerPoint)**
 - **Winter’22**
 - AJG noted that she missed an BTP email, thus stopped receiving information from BTP-D initiative. Suggested that a proposed action is included at the top of an email.
 - ED thanked AJG for her feedback and confirmed that she will share the feedback with the relevant team.

- **Summer'23**
 - ED stated that a summer campaign for domestic customers is being developed, which is building upon the winter campaign which recently concluded.
 - **Winter'23**
 - ED stated that winter iteration of BTP will commence in November.
 - AC asked whether the emphasis on weather conditions will be applied during the upcoming winter iteration of BTP. ED stated that weather conditions will be a component of the upcoming initiative, however its significance and prevalence will decrease.
 - CB noted the potential inaccuracies due to self-reporting. ED stated that in the future, it is hoped that changes in domestic customer's behaviour could be validated via smart metering data. However, there are currently regulatory constraints in place, which prohibits the programme from accessing customer's smart metering data. Until the Smart Metering Data Access Code is in place, the programme is dependent on customer's to self-report.
- **Commercial - (Please refer to slides 9, 11 & 13 in the published PowerPoint)**
 - CB enquired whether there was aggregate demand. ED stated that the initiative focused on demand shifting.
 - Based on the analysis conducted to date, the efficiency of response varied is evident based on behavioural changes either an hour before or after an alert. This finding is based on assessing analysis following nine events.
 - ED added that the learnings and insights gleaned from this iteration of BTP Commercial will be used to enhance future iterations.
 - ED stated that in the future, there'll be an emphasis on raising awareness within the market. This will be done by via a PIN and increasing external communications.
- **Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR) - (Please refer to slides 15 & 16)**
 - ED stated that the primary objective of the CVR initiative was to manage voltages on the distribution network.
 - ED added that during last winter, an "always on" approach was adopted, however this coming winter the NN,LC Programme are planning on a more targeted approach.
 - CB enquired about the nature of voltage change. ED advised that a broad range of voltages are being impacted by CVR – i.e. LEUs, small-to medium enterprises and domestic customers.
 - CB noted that from a solar perspective, it is useful to identify areas of higher penetration of voltage.
 - To date, there is evidence of a 1.85% average reduction in electricity demand, which was equated to €37 saving to customers who were impacted(downstream).
 - Based on learnings, voltage reduction is achievable via "always on", however, a new tech solution is needed to increase power savings.
 - CB noted the incremental step is important to achieving the overarching 15-20% target and added that the technology which is being developed for on/off functionality could provide significant upside.

- **General Overview of the Three Initiatives:**

- Overall, ED stated that there have been learnings gleaned from all three initiatives, which will be helpful for improving future initiatives.
- CB added it'll be interesting to assess the meta-analysis of the BTP initiatives and future technical initiatives in terms of their impact on demand reduction.
- CB asked whether there's an indication of what improvement will be anticipated from this year compared to last year. ED stated that analysis will be conducted in a future date to ascertain any improvements.
- Action: Analysis to be shared in terms of 2023 expected results compared to 2022's actual results.
- BOS enquired which of the three initiatives were the most and least impactful.
- GN stated that the BTP Commercial was the least effective in terms of MW, but with several adjustments, there is significant potential with scaling this initiative. GN noted that there has been in depth engagement with customers, there is much ease of eliminating barriers for them.
- In terms of BTP Domestic, GN noted that it was excellent in terms of understanding customer behaviour.
- ED stated that the CVR initiative was the most effective in terms of realising a quick win, however there is a limit in terms of MWs. As a result of the congested nature of the Irish system, there is a lack of voltage headroom. CB added that if voltage shifting occurred due to altering customer behaviour, the potential headroom could be increased.

3. 15-20% Flexibility by 2025

- Energy demand strategy was published in June'23, which outlined the scenarios which in how to achieve 15-20% flexibility.
- ED provided a high-level overview of the plan on page for; storage, LEUs and Flexibility Ready Transport.
 - **Storage: (Please refer to slides 19-21 of the published PowerPoint)**
 - **LEU: (Please refer to slide 20 of the published PowerPoint)**
 - **Flex ready transport: (Please refer to slide 20 of the published PowerPoint)**
 - CB noted that cybersecurity and data protection considerations may need to be taken into account. ED acknowledged this and potential vulnerabilities, however added the lead for flex ready transport is very technical and is supported by a specialist in cybersecurity.

- **Advisory council discussion**

- Contract term – how long is enough?**

- BOS stated that a 10–15-year contract would be required.
 - CB stated that it's very hard to ascertain the financing element of a contract.
 - GN stated that the team will be assessing past projects and DS3.

- Stacking**

- CB noted that stacking and duration are intrinsically linked in relation to contract term. In addition, it is important to de-risk the contract, as it will be needed in order to commercially incentivise potential participants. ED stated this will need to be considered at CRU.

Cap & Floor or Cap & Share

- CB enquired on whether there will be a set price in place/performance payment in place. ED added about a scaler i.e. a 6 hour battery vs a 4 hour battery process will be in place, where bidding is to follow the curve.
- CB stated that issuing an enduring signal will be important in conjunction with the ECP pipeline. In addition, CB suggested a message is issued, where certainty will be provided in terms of ensuring a connection.

Locational Specificity

- BOS noted its challenging to find a location that suits from both an economic and grid perspective. CB noted that beneficial areas, would be those where's there's considerable constraint already on the network. ED agreed and stated that areas such as Donegal & Mayo are being considered.
- CB enquired whether hybrid is needed for a regional approach. ED stated that an electrically co-located approach is totally fine.
- BOS noted that a co-location approach would be beneficial, as there is an existing connection in place, however consideration will be needed in terms of the structure of the battery project.
- BOS added that is worth considering that, there will be a correlation between the size of the project and the level of challenges (i.e. planning) which will arise. Therefore, contracts should reflect same.

Decarbonisation Objective

- PF enquired about the measuring carbon benefit.
- ED stated that carbon abatement parameters are being considered. The NN,LC Programme are working with John McCann's team in SEAI and a robust measurement framework will be developed in a manner which is compliant with EU taxonomy.
- BOS noted that Kg/KW is a parameter which LEU's focus on, as a means of achieving net zero.

Additional Feedback

- PF raised the ESB Networks' capacity heat map and noted the challenge regarding downloading data.
- ED acknowledged this point and this will be relayed internally to the relevant team.
- In terms of the parameters which are to be used for utilising use cases, ED noted that parameters are important i.e. location (Dublin/Donegal/Mayo/SW/SE) and duration of response. In respect to renewable centric areas, time to charge, duration of charge will be other parameters which will be analysed. In Dublin locations parameters in relation to discharge (biogas) are important.
- In terms of the LEU proposition, ED stated that behind the meter assets in demand sites will be of key consideration.
- ED added that there will likely be 3 types of products available. demand reduction, demand increase and demand hybrid
- ED stated that that the pack presented during the session, will be shared and she encouraged all members to review and provide their feedback.

Suppliers

- ED added that the long term objective for the NN,LC Programme is that suppliers will assume ownership of initiatives such as BTP-Domestic.

- ED stated that the NN,LC Programme will be working with suppliers to reduce costs of the market and conduct a handover process with suppliers.
- **15-20% engagement:**
 - AK stated that the NN,LC 15-20% consultation was published as part of CRU's Energy Demand Strategy suite of publications on the 21/06 and the consultation remains open.
 - AK thanked those stakeholders who have reached out to ESB Networks for bi-lateral engagement and AK stated that we remain available for bi-lateral engagement on our 15-20% consultation at any time.

4. Call for Input paper

- ED stated that the NN,LC Programme publishes reports in respect to 4 incentives; Flexibility, Visibility, TSO/DSO and Neutral Market Facilitation. However, due to regulatory timelines, the approach has altered following agreement with the CRU.
- ED stated that in approximately one week, a call to input paper will be published for the four incentives. Following publication, stakeholders are encouraged to provide their feedback on the published documents.
- In terms of the approach to consulting with the stakeholders, CB and GB highlighted their preference for interactive workshops/webinars on specific sections i.e. Market Design, Power System Requirements, etc.
- ED acknowledges the value in facilitating bespoke session.
- **Action:** Bespoke workshops to be scheduled.

5. CRU & ESB Networks – Longevity of initiatives

- CL noted the importance of the lifetime of initiatives to provide certainty for investors and stimulate new markets and acknowledged there are tradeoffs for consideration, for example the need to be agile to design for any new risks or challenges
- CL stated that proportionality of value to customer and network need are key considerations when developing initiatives.
- **Existing initiatives:**
 - PF stated that having an overview slide, which outlines the duration of initiatives is beneficial in terms of stimulating the market. PF added that he will review the slide in relation to longevity of initiatives and will follow up by providing feedback.
 - CB noted the increase in the current duration between existing initiatives with next wave initiatives.
 - It was suggested that a survey could be shared for representatives to submit their feedback. We note that the PIN includes questions relating to the contract length which can be accessed on the e-Tenders website, PMC ID Number on eTenders is **2070268**.
 - CB noted that addressing non-firm access will be of importance to the market.
 - CL asked about other factors other than duration which are important to Advisory Council members.
 - CB said there's other considerations to bear in mind are; effort & cost, including operational costs.
 - PF noted that awarding participants for consistency was positive (as done in the BTP initiatives).

6. Roundtable discussion.

- ED asked the Advisory Council members for their feedback in relation to the NN,LC Programme – what is going well and what could be done better?
- BOS praised the level of engagement between the NN,LC Programme and highlighted the benefit of having 1:1 sessions with relevant individuals from the team. CB reiterated this point.
- PF stated that alignment between the TSO and DSOs expectations for what to expect from flexibility appears to be needed.
 - ED stated that her and EK's teams have been collaborating with each other in many workshops in devising the future TSO/DSO operating model. Devising an approach in respect to optimising flexibility, without disrupting systems.
 - ED added that industry engagement on the TSO/DSO operating model is expected to take place during the autumn.

Meeting Closed

Open Actions					
ID	Owner	Action Description	Date Raised	Date Due	Comments
1	Alan Keegan	NN,LC Programme to confirm whether the pricing analysis paper that was submitted to the CRU can be shared with members of the Advisory Council.	25/07/2023	24/10/2023	
2	Alan Keegan	Bespoke workshops to be scheduled re. call to input	25/07/2023	31/08/2023	