

National Network Local Connections Advisory Council 9 – Meeting Minutes	
<b>Meeting</b>	Advisory Council 9
<b>Time</b>	10.00am – 2.00pm
<b>Date</b>	25.02.2025
<b>Location</b>	Hybrid – The Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road
<b>Attendees</b>	<p>ESBN: Adrienne Behan (AB), Alan Keegan (AK), Ciara Tighe (CT), Gerry Noone (GN), Paddy Mulvey (PM), Scott Smith (SS), Teresa Fallon (TF) – Chair</p> <p>External stakeholders in attendance: Bobby Smith (BS), Brian O’Shea (BOS), Caoimhe McWeeney (CMW), Conall Bolger (CB), Kevin Brophy (KB), Patrick Liddy (PL), Philip O’Connor (POC), Robert O’Rourke (ROR)</p> <p>Online: Aidan O’Mahony (AOM), Carol Murphy (CM), Eoin Sweeney (ES), John O’Shea (JOS), Martin Kerin (MK), Paddy Finn (PF)</p> <p>Apologies: Enda Leavy (EL), Frank Burke (FB), Gary Purcell (GP), Gillian Baker (GB), Isabella Donnelly (ID), Richard Kelly (RK)</p>
<b>Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome, Housekeeping &amp; Actions</li> <li>• Flexibility Multi-Year Plan 2025-29</li> <li>• PR6 Submission</li> <li>• Progress Update on In-Flight Initiatives</li> <li>• Coffee Break</li> <li>• Demand Flexibility Product Update</li> <li>• Lighthouse Project Update</li> <li>• New Joiners and Leavers</li> <li>• Roundtable Discussion</li> <li>• AOB</li> <li>• Close</li> </ul>
<b>Compiled By</b>	Ciara Tighe

## **Welcome, Housekeeping and Actions**

- TF welcomed all attendees to Advisory Council 9.
- AK conducted housekeeping and actions update.
- Action AC8.1 closed (Flex Services).
- Action AC8.2 closed (Capacity Maps), reinstated on the website. PF thanked AK for this.

## **Flexibility Multi-Year Plan 2025-29**

- AK provided a comprehensive update on the Flexibility MYP:
  - He outlined the consultation process, noting a 6-week period during which feedback was collected and submitted to the CRU, resulting in 7 responses that were reflected in the MYP published in January.
- Key elements discussed included:
  - Non-Wire Alternatives, emphasising the need for further work on BTM architecture technology and engagement with potential applicants regarding Summer Flex challenges.
  - The continued progress of the DSO Demand Flexibility Product.
  - The procurement for a new Flexibility Management System (FMS).
  - Progressing those actions under the National Energy Demand Strategy where ESB Networks is designated responsible body.
  - Engagement with energy communities to understand participation challenges.

## **PR6 Submission**

- TF presented on the PR6 submission, focusing on leveraging smart meter capabilities for a safe and efficient operating network and further.
- She outlined three pillars: Smart and Retail Transformation, Technology, and Operations Transformation.
- TF discussed the importance of V2G technology which is tied to our existing NEDS requirements but also may take on more significance considering recent issues with Storm Eowyn.

### **Discussion:**

- BS asked if Operations Transformation considers flexible connections, and TF confirmed it will.
- PL commended the operational transformation proposals for PR6.
- PL emphasised that ESB Networks needs to be clearer in its approach to seeking flexibility services i.e. instead of engaging with the market to ask 'what can the market offer ESB Networks to better manage congestion', ESB Networks needs to state its needs and let the market consider how it will meet those needs.
- TF noted the lack of responses regarding market assessments and stressed the importance of a reasonable statement of requirements to ensure a balanced approach.
- GN encouraged setting out requirements in a way that the market can understand.

- CMW inquired about the network code, to which TF explained it is the ECTI code under the CRU.
- CMW also asked about meter throttling, and TF clarified that it does not currently exist but future capabilities of smart meter are currently being considered as part of the PR6 discussions.
- AK highlighted that obviously further engagement will be required via the PR6 process and any future meter upgrade programmes would need to be discussed extensive with CRU and industry.

### **Progress Update on In-Flight Initiatives**

- PM and CM provided updates on ongoing initiatives:
  - PM discussed Pilot 2, which has been operating dynamic instruction sets for two years, and the need for coordination with EirGrid to unlock more capacity.
  - Discussions included the importance of communication with generators and the need for effective PR to highlight progress and benefits.
- GN acknowledged this point and stated that should be something which the NN, LC programme considers.

### **Flex Charging**

- PM provided an update on flex charging. He highlighted that 80% adherence to the schedule indicates good performance.
- He emphasised the importance of the Peak Charging Impact Analysis, which is critical for understanding charging during peak times and determining next steps for wider roll-out and offerings, including scheduling and vehicle-to-grid initiatives.
- PM mentioned that there is a growing awareness of scheduling, particularly in relation to excess renewable energy on the grid, indicating that it is a good time to charge.
- He raised the question of whether there are incentives for Beat the Peak (BTP) behaviours and if there are any rewards or incentives in place.

### **CVR**

- PM discussed the CVR initiative, noting that before the trial, there were 11 transformers with a 27MW reduction, particularly affecting customers furthest from the transformer who reported poor voltage.
- PM stated that CVR represents the most economically efficient form of flexibility and has great potential for deployment in various situations.
- PL commented that voltage is driven by a code and suggested that a lower voltage could be beneficial, as the current system allows voltage to rise, which is less efficient. He proposed that allowing voltage to go lower might be in everyone's interest.
- TF responded that voltage standards are broader than their immediate context.
- ROR noted that voltage is determined as part of a wider EU system, using Dublin as an example of short distances affecting voltage management.

- TF explained that under normal and standby conditions, new operational systems can manage voltage dynamically.
- PL asked if there is scope to broaden voltage settings to facilitate more renewables, suggesting that if voltage is set low in one part of the network, it could be balanced out across the network.
- TF acknowledged the need for dynamic capability within their environment.

### **Beat the Peak Business**

- PM reported on the success of recruiting assets for the BTP initiative, noting the progression from 0.02MW in September to 12.5MW currently, with more assets under consideration for approval.
- He explained that they can issue stop instructions during peak events, referencing a peak event on January 8th, where participants could receive a premium for their involvement.
- CB emphasized the need for better PR, information, updates, and feedback, suggesting that sharing success stories and statistics would be beneficial. He highlighted the importance of quantifying savings achieved as businesses become more sensitive to costs.
- PL asked if the BTP initiative would be renewed, and TF confirmed that it will be renewed but revised based on assessments.
- PL cautioned that there is no guarantee the initiative will be available in October 2025, to which TF responded that the program has been extended from May to September, with plans for necessary tweaks and an update expected in September. She noted that Demand Side Units (DSUs) would be major participants and need to be aware of these opportunities in advance.

### **Customer Update**

- CM provided a customer update, mentioning a project called Weather Watch, which involves secondary school students monitoring weather, energy consumption, and demand-side flexibility.
- She reported that they worked with ten schools to integrate this into the curriculum, with teachers volunteering to participate after attending a TU meeting.
- CM highlighted the creation of a video showcasing active energy citizens and noted that actions have been self-reported as demonstrating good behaviour.
- She also mentioned enhanced communications during storm events and referenced a community toolkit developed last year to gamify engagement.

### **Demand Flexibility Product Update**

- TF provided an update on the Demand Flexibility Product, noting that the QSQ process is currently live on eTenders. She highlighted the positive responses received from the second consultation, which emphasized the importance of sharing, transparency, and BTM technology. TF stated that the aim is to publish the CFT by the end of April.

- BS added that transparency is crucial, citing examples of an operational profile and more insights on the reserve price, which would be beneficial for the industry.
- TF noted that:
  - ESB Networks is still considering feedback from the industry and has taken onboard a number of views, for example pertaining to the sharing factor and the operational profile. TF stated that ESB Networks has listened to views on the reserve price however, at this juncture, it is unlikely that ESB Networks would be willing to make this information available.
- CB and BS referred to approaches in other markets (RESS auction and capacity) where this type of information is made available. TF reiterated that ESB Networks doesn't consider this prudent to make this information available.

### **Lighthouse Project Update**

- GN provided an update on the Lighthouse project, noting the necessity for re-planning following the expiration of the Expression of Interest (EOI).
- With the EOI now expired, GN indicated that the team is in the re-planning phase and is currently socializing lessons learned with the CRU.
- Refer to slide 27 in the slide deck for key themes emerging in the lessons learned
- GN concluded by stating that the EOI is available on the website, and there is a desire to work with customers to identify the tipping point for engaging in biomethane usage onsite. He emphasized the need to align with CAP, NEDs, and MYP to determine the necessary conditions for a successful pilot. He also mentioned options to expand the market segment beyond just the largest customers, highlighting the importance of providing necessary insights for broader engagement.

### **New Joiners and Leavers**

- AK informed AC members that Carol Murphy, DMSO Customer & Strategy Manager, will be moving on from the DMSO to take up a new role in ESB Networks. Carol's contribution to the NN, LC programme was acknowledged and the AC members wished her well for the future.
- AC members were informed that Lindsay Sharpe will be replacing Carol as DMSO Customer & Strategy Manager.
- AK also welcomed Adrienne Behan as the new ESB Networks lead for the Joint System Operator Programme with our counterparts in EirGrid.

### **Roundtable Discussion**

- TSO Demand Side White Paper.
- New Electricity Market Directive requirements.
- PM enquired as to whether an update could be provided on the NN, LC's Behind-the-Meter work. AK stated that ESB Networks will take an action to consider how we can provide more of an update on these activities.

- JOS raised a question regarding the extent of the research conducted on the price impact of biomethane usage over time, to reflects the increasing international competition for this increasingly limited resource. AK responded to JOS saying that we will follow up with him directly. Close

#### Open Actions

ID	Owner	Action Description	Date Raised	Date Due	Comment
AC9.1	ESB Networks	Consider providing a more in depth update on the NN, LC's Behind the Meter activities to AC members.	25.02.2025	Q2 2025	