

ESBN National Network, Local Connections Programme – Meeting Minutes

Meeting	National Network, Local Connections Advisory Council
Date / Time	29th June 2022, 14:00-15:30
Location	Hybrid – ESB Gateway & Remote
PMO Support	Cathal O’Neill (CON)
Attendees	Ellen Diskin (ED), Gerry Noone (GN),), Carol Murphy (CM), Nathaniel Williams (NW), Fiona O’Donnell (FOD), James Kenneally (JK), Amanda-Jane Gainford (AJG), Siobhan McHugh (SMcH), Stevie Donnelly (SD),), John O’Shea (JOSA), Richard Kelly (RK) Gary Purcell (GP), Enda Dunleavy (EDY), Gillian Baker (GB), Conall Bolger (CB), Trevor Harron (TH), Aidan Mahony (AM), Killian O’Connor (KOC), L Donnelly (LD)
Apologies	Robert O’Rourke (CRU), Bobby Smith (WEI), Eoin Kennedy (EirGrid), Enda Leavy (EV Owners), Aidan Mahony (Cork City Council); Aoife Bradish (ESBN) , Jonathan O’Sullivan (Eirgrid), Declan Meally (SEAI)
Compiled By	Cathal O’Neill
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome & Introductions • Role of the Advisory Council & Programme Overview • Piloting Roadmap <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Industrial/Commercial ○ Renewable ○ Domestic • Setting our Advisory Council up for Success • AOB • Close

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- GN welcomed guests to the first Advisory council of the National Network, Local Connections (NNLC) programme and advised that the pack presented today will be shared along with minutes.
- Each attendee provided an introduction and overview of their role within their organisation.

2. Role of the Advisory Council & Programme Overview

- Role of the Advisory Council
 - In providing context of the programme, GN stated the NNLC programme is being delivered over three releases and advised that the programme is currently delivering release one and are preparing for release 2.
 - GN provided an overview of the role of the advisory council, where lessons learned from completing each release, will be shared with the advisory council.
 - Input from the advisory council will play an important role in terms of enacting actions derived from lessons learned at the end of each release.

- **Programme Overview**

- ED provided an overview of the role the NNLC Programme will play in the broader context of the energy landscape in Ireland.
- ED advised that the expected increase in electric heating and EV transport, will result in a 50% increase of demand on the grid by 2030.
- The system studies conducted by NNLC, have indicated that by 2030, most rural areas in ROI will be providing excess generation at peak demand.
- The objective of the NNLC programme, is to provide flexible solutions to enable the increasing volume of demand on the network.
- ED stated that ESB Networks will be required to develop solutions in conjunction with customers to provide flexible solutions, while industry will be needed to co-operate with the programme to meet these macro demands. ED encouraged attendees to engage and work with ESBN.
- ED provided an overview of the number of knowledge share sessions which have taken place last year. ED advised that external stakeholder's have impacted on the plans of the NNLC programme and encouraged attendees to engage to progress with the next steps.
- ED provided an overview of the NNLC road map. ED noted that in the background, the programme team are working on developing technical capabilities i.e. MMS, which will be the enduring solutions, however noted that these solutions are dependent on whether a market is in place.
- In relation to domestic flexibility, ED noted that the objective is to invest in education and to support organisations who intend to adopt this as a commercial activity within their business model.
- ED noted that pilots are the vehicle to support the development of the enduring solution. A mock-up dashboard was presented. The development of such a dashboard, which is accessible to all domestic residents is key objective. This dashboard will enable customers to manage their energy in a user-friendly way.

3. Piloting Roadmap

ED presented the slides on piloting roadmap, broken out into three segments: residential, industrial & commercial, and renewable.

Questions and points raised by attendees.

- ED asked Paddy Finn, next about the upcoming tranche of customers for flexibility
 - Regarding demand delivery, PF noted that incentives and flexibility market design play a key role. I&C customers are undertaking their own electrical studies, which is an incredibly important trend that has been observed.
 - In relation to residential customer, PF noted that a different model would be required in comparison to that used for I&C customers. PF stated that he is keen to learn about the DSO's approach to managing licencing. PF noted that a bespoke approach will be needed and would welcome vendor lock in as an aggregator along with common standards in terms of managing devices. Access to these devices will increase opportunities to participate in markets at a smaller level.

- The 4-year procurement process and penalty timelines were raised by PF. ED noted that penalty timelines have not been incorporated in current documents.
- In terms of recruitment of local demand flexible customers, ED noted that Simcha and PF have facilitated sessions to support organisations to incentivise their demand from a match making perspective. ED noted that it's hoped that a similar exercise will take place where 1 to 1 meeting with aggregators and suppliers will take place, where options are assessed.
- SMcH noted that demand response participants would like to see the scope (i.e., what is being procured) and further information to ensure that the sessions are valuable. SMcH noted that it's best not to over-specify and not to funnel through a procurement approach. ED noted that de-risking is the objective.
- CM noted that the focus is to ensure that the solution is commercially viable and that feedback from external stakeholders is invaluable.
- **Action:** To re-engage on recruitment of pilot 3
- **Action:** "Emac" to be added as a party of engaged parties
- PF advised that the DSO provide an overview of how demand side flexibility will impact a customer.

a) Industrial & Commercial

- ED noted that mobilisation is imminent, however clarification is taking place to ensure that assumptions are clarified.
- The solutions to be introduced is to be a week-ahead approach, where investment in technology will be required
- If approval is granted, detailed design in developing the technology, would take place in the winter of 2022, with an objective of ideally going live next spring.
- ED enquired whether attendees feel that the NNLC should proceed with pilot 2
 - i. SMcH noted that improving the situation with Instruction Sets is to be welcomed, however recognised that this is a complex endeavour. SMcH encouraged that NNLC work closely with relevant stakeholders and other relevant parties, especially within the detailed design phase. ED welcomed SMcH's comments
 - ii. PF noted that Viotas are also very keen to support and provide as much assistance to pilot 2 as possible
- In relation to flexible/non-firm MECs – PF noted that there's trading potential in place at a smaller scale. ED welcomed PF's points.
- **Action:** Revisit the topic of small-scale trading at the upcoming National Advisory Council meeting
- SMcH enquired about the Multi-year TSO/DSO Work Plan (Joint System Operator Programme - October 2021 DOC-230921-GYW) and whether there's an intersection.
- **Action:** Provide update on Action WOS2 (Review alignment of aggregation structures for transmission and distribution services) from the TSO/DSO Work Plan

b) Renewable

ED provided over the three renewable pilots

Questions & Issues raised

- CB asked:
 - In terms of reducing dispatch down trial, what are customers being asked to do (industrial heating and CHP)? ED advised that it's a shift of demand with wind and solar, with a need to confirm candidates and focus on local connections and on longer term oversupply to ensure that local resources are utilised.
 - Whether there is consideration of opening RESS2 slots to non-community candidates? ED advised that three pilots discussed thus far will not be done in isolation and the focus at the minute is to full slots with community groups. However, that's not to say there isn't a possibility of non-community groups to be involved in a similar pilot.
- ID asked;
 - i. How infrastructure upgrades links in with communities' progress and what EBN's stance is on financing these connections. ED noted that that ID is correct, connection costs are certainly a blocker, thus the introduction of community focused pilots. ED noted that basic infrastructure costs are a problem. ED noted that the CRU has the authority to decide whether the costs of financing infrastructure investments can be socialised, however this decision is out of the control of ESNB. Nevertheless, ESNB will do it's best to support communities in developing smart solutions. GN noted that financing communities is a common thread which has been identified through monitoring the engagement mailbox. FOD advised the connection agreements reviewed so far, has suggested that there's little that NNLC can do from an investment in deep reinforcement.
 - ID asked if there's are several communities in the pipeline?

FOD noted that community projects have been given time for planning permission, despite this additional time for communities to work on preparation

GB asked;

- In regard to RESS 2, GB asked if there's opportunity for communities to collaborate and whether there's a future opportunity for such collaboration in RESS -3
- ED noted that open calls were held, by using the engagement list. ED encouraged attendees to register with the engagement mailbox. ED advised at the time, there were no obvious dedicated route to reach out to community projects in the future. ED advised the SEAI could be the most optimal route. FOD noted that she reviewed the 9 RESS-2 projects, however there are complexities in regard to connecting.
- GB expressed gratitude in the opportunity of connecting with similar communities
- **Action:** All members of advisory council to agree to work together to ensure funded projects are considered for relevant NNLC pilots. DPAI will have to be considered here.
- GN noted that the Advisory Council is set to be an enduring council spanning over the coming years.

c) Domestic Pilots

ED noted that there are three core initiatives within domestic flexibility;

1. *“Beat the Peak”*

- Focusing on the various incentives nationwide

2. **Community**

- ED stated that the objective here is to deliver dashboards so that communities can compare how their energy consumption is in comparison with other communities. There's the potential to explore the option of gamification to promote co-operation.
- ED advised that this is discussed at a future session, where input is provided on how best to recruit communities
- **Action:** Agenda item re. recruitment of communities to be added for the upcoming National Advisory meeting

3. **Domestic Tech**

- ED noted that this will be commencing in January'23, with recruitment ongoing through SEAL.
- CB noted the importance of the social/behavioural economics, as there are many important lessons learned from the smart metering programme. ED noted that a behavioural economist SMR is on the board.
- CB added that the roll out of micro gen is ongoing, therefore it will be needed to consider how to treat generators who are also suppliers.
- **Action:** Agenda item re. domestic products and services to be added for the upcoming National Advisory meeting

4. Setting Our Advisory Council up for Success

- GN noted that a national research panel is being stood up and encouraged attendees to nominate individuals to join this committee.
- GN noted that broad section of the industry and encouraged attendees to provide feedback on any areas. Anna Jane – enquired if anyone from a control background will be attending. ED noted that technology vendors would provide insight

5. Update on joint TSO/DSO workplan

- ED provided an overview of the latest statement, which is in regard to a joint operating model.
- ED noted that workshops are likely to take place in the latter
- Amanda Jane enquired how often we are set to meet. ED noted that, the aim is a minimum of 3 meetings per year, however subject to change depending on urgent requests.
- **Action:** Engagement email address to be included in follow up email

7. Close

- ED and GN thanked all for their participation and time.

Meeting Closed