

National Network Local Connections Advisory Council 11 – Meeting Minutes	
Meeting	Advisory Council 11
Time	10.00-13:00
Date	18.11.2025
Location	Hybrid – The Clayton Hotel, Burlington Road
Attendees	<p>ESBN: Teresa Fallon (TF) – Co-Chair, Alan Keegan (AK) – Co-Chair, Ciara Tighe (CT), Fiona O'Donnell (FOD), Kevin Doyle (KD), Niall Stafford (NS), Scott Smith (SS) and Victoria Ainsworth (VA).</p> <p>External stakeholders in attendance: Amanda-Jane Gainford (AJG), Caoimhe McWeeney (CMW), Bobby Smith (BS), Katarina Holohan (KH), Marcos Byrne (MB), Paddy Finn (PF), Patrick Liddy (PL), Philip Connor (PC), Ruth Buggie (RB),</p> <p>Online: Edmund O'Carroll (EOC), Gary Purcell (GP), Aidan O'Mahony (AOM).</p> <p>Apologies: Aoife Bradish (AB), Enda Leavy (EL), Eoin Kennedy (EK), Frank Burke (FB), John O'Shea (JOS), Robert O'Rourke (ROR), Shane Prendergast (SP), Trevor Harron (TH).</p>
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome, Housekeeping & Actions • PR5 Lookback • Flexible Connections • Local Business Flex and SME Flex • Coffee Break • Flex Readiness • Demand Flexibility Product • Roundtable Discussion • AOB • Close
Compiled By	Ciara Tighe

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Welcome, Housekeeping and Actions

- AK welcomed everyone and welcomed TF back to NN,LC AC 11.
- AK conducted housekeeping and actions update.
 - AC9.1: Consider providing a more in-depth update on the NN, LC's Behind-the-Meter activities to AC members. Action now closed.
 - AC10.1: Recommend broader dissemination of insights and learnings from pilot programs. Action will remain open and an update will be provided at the next Advisory Council meeting.

PR5 Lookback

- NS presented lookback on PR5, key achievements over 2021-2025 (PR5 period).
- AK highlighted ESBN's ability to respond to European requirements following the onset of the Security of Supply crisis in 2022 and the success of the partnership with EirGrid under JSOP.
- CMW asked where we are in terms of flexibility targets and to what extent this programme supported those achievements.
- AK clarified that there is an exercise due in early part of next year to review the NEDS initiatives to look at contributions by ESBN, EirGrid and other stakeholders.
- TF clarified that measurement of targets had changed mid-stream and that the groundwork has been done to set up for success through PR6 and 2030 targets.
- TF highlighted the importance of the Flexible Needs Assessment in pinpointing where need is greatest.
- PF emphasised the importance now of the pivot to more enduring arrangements for flexibility and more of a focus on what can deliver more “bang for our buck”. AK stated that ESB Networks is of the same view and we now foresee a growing focus on more enduring arrangements for flexibility and demand response being integrated into our and industry work plans over the coming years. The introduction of the likes of the Network Code on Demand Response will be crucial for these enduring requirements.
- PL acknowledged a lot of the work done to date by ESB Networks but also sought clarity on where industry can better assist ESB Networks. AK stated that we are operating in a fragmented policy environment in terms of key priorities to be delivered. The CRU's National Energy Demand Strategy is a good start but, ESB Networks needs to hear what the key priorities should be from our Advisory Council members and industry stakeholders. ESB Networks understands that CRU will be considering an update to the National Energy Demand Strategy in 2026 and this should be the vehicle for alignment on key priorities to be progressed in the next phase. We cannot deliver everything and certainly not everything at the same time.

Flexible Connections

- FOD presented the slides relating to Flexible Connections, highlighting its role in achieving flexibility targets and in supporting customers on their decarbonisation journey.
- PF emphasised the importance of a systemised and automated approach to underpin implementation of the flexible connection processes.

- It was acknowledged that the design ESB Networks is progressing for Flexible Connections is a minimum viable product (MVP) and it's not the intention to scale this MVP in the near-term. ESB Networks understands that CRU is to undertake a programme of work to consult and decide on a new regulatory framework for Flexible Connections and ESB Networks is hopeful that its work on the MVP could serve to inform regulatory policy and subsequent implementation of same.
- Action: FOD will share template for calculations and assumptions, with feedback welcome on same, as well as sharing Article 15 of the ACER methodology regarding market barriers and the role of digitalisation in flexibility needs assessment.

SME Flexibility Product

- VA presented Local Business and SME Flexibility, stressing the importance of engaging with SME customers to understand the market potential and customer requirements.
- PF pointed to the importance of using international examples to inform our analysis and sought more clarity on what the overall benefits are of SME flex. PF queried why the focus on a proof of concept type approach when the focus should be more on more enduring flexibility requirements and products.
- ESB Networks informed Advisory Council members that following on from the update provided on Beat the Peak Business at the Advisory Council in July 2025, ESB Networks now anticipates consulting externally on the next iteration to Beat the Peak Business, Local Business Flex. ESB Networks currently anticipates publishing an external consultation paper in early Q1 2026.

Flex Readiness

- EOC presented on Flex readiness – A network pilot demonstration on the monitoring and control capability of rooftop PV in Ireland.
- EOC clarified that this pilot was focused on the technical pilot in response to CMW query on the pilot scope. AK clarified that the next phase would cover broader strategic and operational questions. CMcW emphasised importance of joined-up thinking to ensure alignment on delivery of policy goals
- GP noted initiatives in France and Australia to incentivise market engagement behaviours in an aligned and joined-up way
- PF observed that another pilot was not the most efficient way to test the IEEE Standard for Smart Energy Profile Application Protocol 2030.5 and that we have lost time as a result. PF emphasised that it was December 2023 when these engagements first began with industry and considers that progress on this initiative could've been expedited.
- TF emphasised the importance of ESBN doing the due diligence but acknowledged the frustration that in some instances, these initiatives are taking quite a lot of time.

Demand Flexibility Product

- KD outlined progress on Demand Flexibility Product, pointing to the extensive industry engagement throughout and the importance of incorporating feedback received.
- PL expressed frustration that the DFP did not present a viable commercial opportunity for potential market participants. The inability of sites to work together to meet criteria is an extremely limiting factor and will result in many potential participants not being in a

position to engage with the market. PL stated that DRAI had been very supportive of this product up to a point but expressed considerable concern regarding the current design and its viability.

ESBN (TF / KD) explained that the forecast operating envelopes were based on available station capacity, that they were technically feasible and that clarifications can be issued through the formal channels, if needed.

- BS sought more clarity on ESB Networks' timelines beyond March 2026. ESB Networks stated that it is currently in the process of reviewing our existing plans, across the DMSO function, and hopes to be in a position to provide more clarity on our updated plans at the next Advisory Council meeting.
- Discussion regarding the lack of clarity on the Demand Flexibility Product connection process and ESB Networks acknowledged the frustration of Advisory Council members that sufficient clarity is not available at this juncture.

AOB

- AK informed Advisory Council members of ESB Networks and EirGrid's intention to host an external industry webinar on the TSO/DSO operating model detailed design on 3rd December 2025. More information to issue.
- AK highlighted that ESB Networks currently expects to issue Advisory Council members with an end of year survey in advance of the Christmas break. ESB Networks will seek feedback on overall composition of the Advisory Council including meeting formats, cadence, etc. ESB Networks will also seek input from Advisory Council regarding overall branding of the Advisory Council.
- AK noted some personnel changes which ESB Networks has been made aware of recently. Katarina Holohan will be moving on from CRU and AK thanked Katarina for her participation at the Advisory Council. AK also noted that Scott Smith will be finishing up with ESB Networks in the coming weeks and AK thanked Scott for all his work contributing to the running and logistics of the Advisory Council. Members wished both Katarina and Scott well for the future.

Roundtable

- BS: Agreed with Paddy's concerns about the DFP.
- TF: Next step go out again in September, looking at aggregation and Behind The Meter.

New Actions

ID	Owner	Action Description	Date Raised	Date Due	Comments
AC11.1	Fiona O'Donnell	Share template for calculations and assumptions, with feedback welcome on same, as well as sharing Article 15 of the ACER methodology regarding market barriers and the role of digitalisation in flexibility needs assessment.	18 th November 2025	Advisory Council 12	N/A
AC11.2	Alan Keegan	Share Advisory Council survey with members	18 th November 2025	Advisory Council 12	N/A