

ESBN National Network, Local Connections Programme – Meeting Minutes

Meeting	National Network, Local Connections Advisory Council
Date / Time	14th September 2022, 15:00-16:30
Location	Hybrid – ESB Gateway & Remote
PMO Support	Cathal O’Neill (CON)
Attendees	Gerry Noone (GN), Aoife Bradish (AB), Siobhán McHugh (SMH), Isabella Donnelly (ID), Carol Murphy (CM), Gillian Baker (GB), Aidan Mahony (AM), Paddy Finn (PF), Eoin Kennedy (EK), Garry Purcell (GP), Ed O’Carroll (EOC) Killian O’Connor (KOC), Bobby Smith (BS), John O’Shea (JOS), Dylan Ashe (DA), Enda Leavy (EL), Stevie Donnelly (SD)
Apologies	Ellen Diskin, Trevor Harran, Declan Meally, Jonathon O’Sullivan, Conal Bolger, Amanda Jane Gainsford
Compiled By	Cathal O’Neill
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome & Introductions• Sign of Minutes & Actions from previous meeting• Beat the Peak (BTP) overview<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Domestic○ Commercial - Active○ Commercial – Pledged• Conservation Voltage Reduction (CVR)• Flexibility Multi Year Plan• AOB• Close

Minutes

1. Welcome & Introductions

- GN welcomed all attendees to the second meeting of the NNLC advisory council.

2. Sign of Minutes & Actions from previous meeting

- Action 1 (Pilot 3) – GN noted that this action has been closed. To re-invigorate engagement and recruitment of customers, GN noted that interviews with aggregators occurred, and feedback has been taken on board to rectify issues. GN added that NNLC are on track to achieve incentivised milestones for pilot 3.
 - **Action:** Insights and output to be socialised with the advisory group
 - **Action:** To socialise insight papers from previous sessions with SMH
- Action 2 (Pilot 2) – GN noted that pilot 2 was paused for a number of weeks, however it has been decided that this pilot is to resume. It is NNLC’s intention that the detailed design workshops, occur in mid October.
- Action 3 (RESS-2) – GN noted that this action is currently ongoing and noted that a working group has been established. The working group are focused on identifying suitable projects. GN added that a number of these projects are co-located and there’s a cross over on ownership, which requires a substantial level of effort.

- Action 4: Domestic products and services – GN noted that this action is closed and that slides regarding the rolling out of domestic products is included within the pack.

3. **Beat the Peak (BTP) Overview**

- CM noted that there are a number of pilots that sit within the overarching BTP initiative.
- In terms of delivering BTP, GN noted that stakeholder engagement is ongoing with external organisations and internally within ESB.
- **Domestic**
 - CM shared the insights which have been gleaned from research sessions, focused on understanding customer behaviour between the hours of 5-7.
 - CM noted that customer's primary concern is in relation to their ability to control their electricity consumption.
 - BTP Domestic is set to go live in October 2023 and that marketing campaign will be underway to raise awareness. The marketing campaign is titled "*Is now a good time?*"
 - Along with SEAI, NNLC have identified the five appliances which are most applicable when asking customers to reduce their consumption between 5-7.
 - A €30 (TBC) One4All voucher is being proposed to incentivise customers to opt in to this initiative.
 - SMH enquired if there's a target MW as part of BTP Domestic. GN noted that there's a target for MW, however the primary objective of the pilot is to identify learnings from customer behaviour, which can be used for future campaigns.
 - **Action:** GN to include slide on target MW within the socialised pack.
 - SMH enquired if this pilot is linked to amber alerts?
 - ID enquired about the smart meters will play within this initiative. GN noted that it is not a prerequisite that customers have a smart meter to participate. CM noted that engagement with SEAI has also taken place from a customer behaviour perspective.
 - KOC asked whether it is ESB Network's intention that only they will be the solely will be driving this demand side flexibility. CM noted that NNLC are working closely with suppliers. CM added that suppliers will not receive a financial reward for their support within BTP Domestic.
 - AM enquired about verification of behaviours. CM noted that a self-reporting mechanism will be in place, however there's the potential that a number of customers may be in a position to share their smart metering data so that ESB Networks can verify customer behaviour between 5-7pm.
- **Commercial - Active**
 - AB provided an overview of the objectives of BTP – Commercial
 - GP noted that it appears to him that commercial is lagging behind domestic and enquired what the rationale was. CM and GN noted that this has been stood up within 14 weeks and that the objective is ascertain learnings so that they can be scaled across similar initiatives in the future.
 - SMH enquired if there's an update from the regulator regarding a decision, regarding the remuneration of customers. GN noted that NNLC are awaiting an update from the regulator on this matter.

- SMH enquired if there's there a change regarding the timeline of amber alert notifications. AB noted that discussions are ongoing between ESB Networks and EirGrid to modify the arrangement regarding notification of amber alerts.
- **Commercial Pledged**
 - GN provided an overview of BTP commercial pledged, where it is hoped that organisations are awarded for adapting their ways of working which promotes employee's behaviour between 5-7pm.
 - GN noted that there a number of target participant organisations
 1. 'Hero Pledge' (involving 3-4 large companies with a strong Irish presence)
 2. Broader pledged (involving an additional c.10 organisations)
 3. Suppliers
 4. 3rd party suppliers
 5. Industry and public organisations (i.e. IBEC, Chamber of Commerce, DRAI, Wind Energy Ireland)

4. **CVR**

- EOC provided an overview of the conversation voltage reduction initiative.
- AM enquired how close to the limits do NNLC intend to go. EOC noted that a focus is on the SCADA readings at particular sub station level, and this will be monitored within operating limits.
- AM enquired about medical customers and their levels of supply and how they will be adjusted. EOC noted that analysis to determine whether sensitive customers are impacted is carried out and that this is being tested. EOC added that a number of national pilots will be carried out to determine the impact.
- In addition, GN noted that a conservative approach is being adopted in terms of limits.
- AM raised additional concerns regarding reliability issues in certain areas of the network, particularly in rural areas. EOC noted that CVR initiatives will primarily be focussed within the urban areas and locations selected will be specifically targeted based on suitability.

5. **Flexibility Multi Year Plan**

- CM noted that the Flexibility multi-year plan will be submitted to the CRU by 30/09/22.
- GN noted that consultation roundtable session with external stakeholders occurred. The output of this session will be fed into the Flexibility Multi Year plan submitted to the CRU.
- GN presented the proposed actions (2023) within the Flexibility Multi Year plan.
- SD enquired whether webinars will be made available to the public through a wider platform.
- **Action:** Webinar to be made available 2-3 weeks within the consultation response window.

6. **AOB**

- PF noted that there are a number of ancillary positive impacts involved as part of the BTP initiatives.
- GB stated have stated her organisation are happy to support NNLC in socialising relevant material.
- AB enquired about the progress being made regarding the installation of 1 million smart meters by Nov 2022. GN noted that based on the current run rate, it is expected that the Smart Metering team are expected to hit this target by Nov 2022. This target represents just under 50% of domestic customers.

- ID enquired whether ESB Networks have responded to Small Scale Generation (SSG) public consultation. GN noted that NNLC would not have responded to this consultation, and it would have likely been another team within ESB Networks. GP noted the Joe Duignan, Michael Quirke are individuals from ESB who have been involved in this consultation and that an in-person session is taking place in Dublin's chamber of commerce.
- **Action:** NNLC to review the approach adopted as part of the SSG consultation
- JOS enquired if it is possible to sign up at the amber alerts initiative. GN noted that this is not live. SMH added that it is possible for the public to sign up for amber alerts via SEMO.

Meeting Closed

