

## ESBN National Network, Local Connections Programme – Meeting Minutes

<b>Meeting</b>	National Network, Local Connections Advisory Council
<b>Date / Time</b>	5th April 2023, 10.00 – 13:00
<b>Location</b>	Hybrid – Davenport Hotel & Remote
<b>PMO Support</b>	Cathal O’Neill (CON)
<b>Attendees</b>	Ellen Diskin (ED), Carol Murphy (CM), Alan Keegan (AK), Robert O’Rourke (ROR), Garry Purcell (GP), Paddy Finn (PF), Amanda Jane Gainford (AJG), Aidan Mahony (AM), John Sedgewick (JS), Conal Bolger (CB), Gillian Baker (GB), Brian O’Shea (BOS)
<b>Apologies</b>	Gerry Noone, Eoin Kennedy, Bobby Smith, Frank Bourke,
<b>Compiled By</b>	Cathal O’Neill
<b>Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome &amp; Introductions</li><li>• Actions update for Meeting 4</li><li>• Multi Year Plan Update</li><li>• 2023 Key Milestones</li><li>• 15-20% Flexibility by 2025</li><li>• AOB</li><li>• Close</li></ul>

## Minutes

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

- CM provided an overview of the attendees and new joiners.
- In terms of membership of the advisory council, ED noted that there’s a push to involve suppliers. ROR suggested raising awareness via the Industry Governance Group.

### 2. Actions from previous meeting

- CB highlighted the feedback received from ISEA members in relation to pilot 4 – Flexible Connections. Those who engaged with the pilot, were under the impression that they were not required to progress the establishment of flexible connections and suggested further clarity is provided to potential participants. CB suggested that as a means of promoting further participation in flexible connections initiatives, a session should be scheduled with ISEA and WEI members.
- **Action:**>NNLCP to schedule a call with WEI and ISEA members in relation to Flexible Connections and addressing issues which have been raised.
- ED noted that the>NNLCP will adjust the language used across the programme, as the term “pilot” does not provide certainty to potential customers, thus negatively impacts on long term planning and investment.

### 3. Multi Year Plan Update

- Visibility MYP
  - CM noted that the Visibility MYP has been issued and noted the response from Solar Ireland, in which>NNLCP will respond to in due course.
- TSO/DSO
  - The DSO/TSO MYP is being developed in collaboration with EirGrid
- Flexibility Work Plan 2023
  - ED provided an overview of the milestones which>NNLCP are proposing to submit to the CRU in the coming week. ED encouraged attendees to provide their thoughts on whether>NNLCP are providing value through the delivery of these milestones.

- Dynamic Instruction Sets Go-Live Milestone – CM stated that this went live on 04/04.
- Regarding the Mullingar Local Flexibility Market Go-Live GB & AM enquired if all customers have been engaged with and have been brought on-board. ED stated that recruitment has been taking place in two rounds. ED stated that the initial call issued via Piclo didn't result in the expected expressions of interest. To maximise the number of customers participating, the second wave of recruitment will require an intensification of engagement.
- **Action:** Provide clarity on exact number of max no. of customers who could participate
- In relation to Pilot 4 - Flexible Connections, CB suggested that the criteria is re-assessed as, there's potential to have a wider pool of candidates if the criteria is not constrained to RESS-1.
- **Action:** Workshop to be scheduled with ISEA members & developers, with the objective of providing clarity on the criteria and selection process.
- PF raised the point about the approach being adopted for pricing and how can more assurance be provided to participants
- **Future Agenda Item:** Ahead of the upcoming Advisory Council, it was noted that an agenda item should be included, which focuses on how ESNB and CRU can provide increased levels of confidence to customers in relation to the longevity of>NNLCP initiatives.
- PF enquired about>NNLCP's approach to pricing.
- ED stated that two routes to pricing have been adopted thus far;
  1. Market based competitive/price discovery
  2. BTP – a price issued in the interest of simplicity and speed
- ED stated that there's a recognition within>NNLCP, that the price discovery approach is the optimal process from a regulatory perspective. ED encouraged participants to share any relevant case studies and/or benchmarking analysis, as>NNLCP will be happy to consider alternative approaches.
- In the Flexibility MYP that will be issued in late April, a question will be raised for consultation in relation to pricing (albeit dependent on guidance from the internal procurement). ED highlighted how participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding the pricing approach through the consultation process.
- In relation to pricing approach, ROR stated that the CRU's core focus is on ensuring value for money (which can be substantiated through studies & benchmarking). In an ideal setting, the CRU's preference is for the price discovery approach to be implemented, however they recognise the potential need of setting the price, as means of driving engagement during the initial phase and to ensure that Climate Action Plan targets are achieved.
- In terms of the €444 figure, JS stated that there has been mixed messaging regarding this figure amongst DRAI members..
- **Action:** Analysis regarding the €444 figure to be shared (dependent on advice from procurement)
- PF stated that setting expectations of timing is important regarding the BTP initiatives, as it appears that the operations of pilots and parameters initially communicated were not adhered to.
- **Action:**>NNLCP to directly follow up with participants, as a means of clarifying what parameters were not met.
- AJG enquired if smart inverter pilots is targeting domestic customers. ED stated that it is targeted at domestic customers and farmers with mini gen capability.
- GP noted that there's potential to engage a wider cohort of customers, by integrating weather apps with>NNLCP initiatives such as *Beat The Peak - is this a good time?*.

NNLCP acknowledged the suggestion, and this will be considered when developing future initiatives.

#### 4. 15-20% Flexibility by 2025

- ED provided an overview of the overarching target to 2030
- ED stated that the regulatory cycle runs from April – April, therefore by the end of April 2023,>NNLCP will be submitting multiple documents to the CRU and for consultation;
  - 15-20% Central Pathway and Scenarios
  - 15-20% Baseline Delivery Plan
  - Flexibility Market Revenues & Value
- ED stated that calls to competition will be issued for potential commercial storage & LEUs in Q3/Q4 2023. ED encouraged attendees to provide input, as insights will enrich the development of products.
- Recommended that ESB Networks consider definition of long-duration storage and not to narrow the funnel of potential participants. ESB Networks stated that it's looking at 4-6hr duration, however, acknowledges that this may need to be made clear in the consultation.
- **Action:**>NNLCP to follow up with BOS and his representatives, to create a proposition which balances pragmatism with system need and capital competition. Along with articulating a solution (inc. private wire & utilisation of land) which could be presented to potential participants.
- ED stated that>NNLCP will be engaging with potential customers and organisations as a means of understanding current blockers
- BOS stated that in order to understand customer needs, IBEC have been engaged. In addition, **Brian (Strategic Power) stated that from his experience of dealing with potential customers, priority is always given to the financial impact rather than ESG.**
- PF added that prices and long-term incentives need to be competitive on a global basis, as investors are assessing options on an international scale.
- PF enquired if there's a carbon threshold re. storage. ED stated that>NNLCP appreciate that abatement is a specific objective, however 100% abatement is not the focus of the programme.
- In relation to long duration storage, PF enquired if an increase in storage facilities, may result in challenges to value stacking. ED stated that this issue is being addressed through engagement with EirGrid.
- **Action:** Annual run hours for storage to be included in document issued for consultation
- EG added that milestones are indicative and may alter based on consultation responses and findings gleaned via research
- ED encouraged attendees to review the slides which outline>NNLCP's definition of flexibility and to provide any thoughts and/or suggestions
- BOS said that from a supplier perspective, there will likely be challenges that they'd consider i.e. cost to serve & billing.
- PF highlighted a how a tight labour market can be viewed as a constraint in achieving these targets. ED noted that shares this concern regarding this constraint. PF stated that he'd be keen to understand>NNLCP's approach to calculating manpower per MW.
- **Action:**>NNLCP to share insights regarding this to be shared MW/man hour
- ROR also stated that the advisory council should consider wider developments in this space e.g. smart meter rollout and time-of-use pricing which is now available in the retail market.

#### 5. AOB

- ED thanked all for their attendance and re-affirmed the value of attendee's contribution. A Follow up session will be occurring in the coming month and ED stated that specific follow up sessions with members and respective members of bodies can be scheduled.

**Meeting Closed**