

# ENWL DSO Stakeholder Panel

Meeting notes – 1 May 2024

<b>Present:</b>	In person - Andrew McIntosh (AMc), Matt Fawcett (MF), Craig Morley (CM) Online – Greg Dodd (GD), Kate Gilmartin (KG), James Johnson (JJ)
<b>In attendance:</b>	Helen Daly (HD), Charlotte Pirie (CP)
<b>Apologies:</b>	Cara Blockley, Gareth Candlin, Mariel Lakin, Andrew Mullaney

## Welcome, safety moment and conflicts declaration

AMc welcomed all attendees.

HD shared details of ENWL’s monthly safety theme of hand safety, noting its applicability to both working and home life.

No conflicts of interest were declared.

## Review of actions

The action log was reviewed, and updates given on the outstanding actions. Updated log to be circulated alongside meeting notes. **Action: HD**

## Industry issues identified by panel members

Topics raised for future consideration:

- Systems planning and connections queues
- How is ENWL thinking about innovation and decarbonising communities?
- Governance - how is ENWL splitting functions of DSO and DNO?
- Regional Energy System Planner (RESP) – development and role

## Flexibility platform tender outcome

HD confirmed the outcome of ENWL’s recent flexibility platform tender. Electron was selected as the preferred supplier for an end-to-end process using their Electron Connect platform. ENWL had also agreed a collaboration with PicoFlex to signpost tender requirements and allow providers to carry out commercial and technical registration via the PicoFlex platform but then bid and be dispatched by the ElectronConnect platform.

ENWL had committed to review the platform every two years so this would next be re-tendered in 2026.

## Decisions review – autumn flexibility tender

HD reminded the panel that ENWL's autumn 2023 flexibility services tender had tender sought 413MW of flexibility in 29 locations across Cumbria, Lancashire and Greater Manchester with up to £7m revenue available for the provision of these services. The tender had closed on 23 February. 75 bids had been accepted and 28 rejected. No challenges were made to the decisions.

The panel requested more information on the following topics:

- Further detail round the bids rejected and the overall assessment process
- Was ENWL working with local authorities
- How was ENWL working to ensure that a broad range of communities could access its tenders

It was agreed that a deeper dive into flexibility services would be provided at a future session. **Action: ENWL**

## Conflicts register

HD gave a high-level overview of ENWL's proposed conflicts register. It was agreed that a much longer session was required once the panel had had the opportunity to consider the register further. **Action: ENWL**

## DSO incentive update

HD reminded the panel of the structure of the DSO incentive and gave an update on the various elements. The performance panel report had been submitted to Ofgem on 30 April, and all DSOs would be invited to attend a session with the Ofgem-appointed panel in June.

The DSO stakeholder survey was open until 31 May. An overall satisfaction score above 7.9/10 would put ENWL into the incentive band. A score of under 7.5/10 would put ENWL in the penalty band. In addition, Ofgem had published a 'call for evidence' to gather wider stakeholder feedback and panel members were asked if they would respond.

## ENWL DSO strategy review

HD informed the panel of ENWL's commitment to review and refresh its DSO strategy every two years. The strategy review would be commencing in May and the panel would be invited to provide its input at the next meeting.

## Stakeholder activities 2024/25

CP outlined the objective of the DSO stakeholder engagement programme and shared ENWL's forward plan for engagement and communication, highlighting the key publications and events throughout the year. The panel was keen to be involved in the development of publications, in particular the long term development statement and the network development plan. The panel also agreed to help ENWL with promoting the events.

## Terms of reference review

The terms of reference of the panel, which had been updated to reflect that ENWL is now in the second year of ED2 and had been previously circulated, were approved.

## Draft forward plan

HD shared the draft forward plan for 2024/25 with the panel but noted that it would need to be updated following the discussions in this meeting.

### **Feedback from the Independent Oversight Group**

AM gave an update from the February IOG meeting. The focus of the session was ENWL's triangulation report which will be provided on a quarterly basis with the objective of ensuring that engagement improved the quality of input into ENWL's decision making. It was noted that the report had been shared with the panel by HD during March. The IOG also discussed the development of ENWL's proposed annual stakeholder engagement report, and the IOG's contribution to this.

### **AOB and close**

AM thanked panel members and ENWL for their time and contribution to the meeting. The next meeting will be on 4 September 2024.