

ENWL DSO Stakeholder Panel

Meeting notes – 6 November 2024

Present:	Andrew McIntosh (AMc), Greg Dodd (GD), Matt Fawcett (MF), Kate Gilmartin (KG), James Johnson (JJ), Meriel Lakin (ML), Craig Morley (CM)
In attendance:	Paul Auckland (PA), Cara Blockley (CB), Helen Daly (HD), Stuart Deardon (SD), Paul George (PG), Christos Kaloudas (CK)
Apologies:	

Welcome, safety moment and conflicts declaration

AMc welcomed all attendees.

HD shared details of ENWL's monthly safety theme of winter driving safety.

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**

Session theme 1 - Load-related reopener

SD gave a recap of the back ground to ENWL's load-related reopener application to Ofgem before CK moved on to address the question raised by the panel at the last meeting relating to ENWL's load related investment processes, in particular the determination of asset vs non-asset solutions, and the benefits of proactive reinforcement compared to reactive piecemeal reinforcement.

The panel observed that it was important for ENWL to demonstrate in its submission what was at risk if it was not awarded the additional allowances and to highlight the importance of wider societal benefits delivered by ENWL's activities.

It was agreed that ENWL would provide a further update at the next session on the bill impact of its proposals and an update on the points raised by the panel. **Action: ENWL**

Standing items - publications

DFES - Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the DFES update would be postponed to the next panel session.

Consultation - HD gave an update on ENWL's forthcoming consultation on its Network Development Plan (NDP), Operational Decision-Making Framework (ODMF) and Smart Optimisation Output (SOO) (including the data portal) publications. The panel was asked to provide feedback on the consultation questions in advance of the survey going live. **Action: panel members**

Standing items - Industry issues identified by panel members

Topics raised for future consideration/updates

- ED3 Sector Specific Methodology Consultation (SSMC)
- Connections reforms (including connections queues and barriers at transmission level)

Standing items – IOG update

The last IOG meeting was on 16 September 2024. Agenda items included:

- Political update – North West changes and impact of new energy policies
- Winter planning – incident response and vulnerable customer support
- Regulatory update – SSMD review and key Ofgem topics
- Load-related re-opener update
- Reporting update – Stakeholder Engagement and [Business Commitments](#)

Standing items – DSO incentive update and strategy

CB explained the purpose of the session:

- To share an update on the DSO incentive score and Ofgem's report on the DSO panel submission
- To share with the panel ENWL's proposals for refreshing its DSO strategy; and
- To invite the panel's input and feedback on the updated plans

CB set out the key points from Ofgem's general feedback on all DSO submissions before looking at ENWL's overall score and breakdown by scoring criteria.

PA summarised the work undertaken to date to refine ENWL's DSO strategy as well as the missions underpinning the vision and the measures aimed at ensuring delivery.

The panel expressed its strong support for the vision and provided comments on some of the associated detail for ENWL to consider.

PA and CB thanked the panel for their feedback and agreed to factor this in to the development of the refreshed strategy.

Standing items – stakeholder engagement

Due to time constraints this was not discussed but the relevant slide in the meeting pack was noted.

Standing items – Panel forward plan

Due to time constraints this was not discussed but the relevant slide in the meeting pack was noted.

Session theme 2 – Flexibility services

PG explained that the purpose of this session was to provide more detail on ENWL's processes for identifying and evaluating opportunities for flexible services, as requested by the panel at the previous meeting. He noted that an understanding of the various stages of the process was also important for the panel as part of its oversight of ENWL's conflicts of interest processes.

The panel then discussed the results of ENWL's spring 2024 flexibility tender, and PG shared an overview of the autumn tender which had just been launched. The panel provided some suggestions for ENWL to consider around increasing participation in the process and how to potentially open the market to more participants. It was also agreed that PG and ML would meet to discuss this further.

Action: PG

AOB and close

HD confirmed that the next session was provisionally scheduled for 21 November but that this may need to move to ensure more members could attend. **Action: HD**

AM thanked panel members and ENWL for their time and contribution to the meeting.