

# Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council Meeting 03 Minutes



**Date:** January 18<sup>th</sup> 2023

**Time:** 09:30 - 16:00

**Venue:** Herbert Park Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4

**Chair:** Liam Ryan

## Council Member Attendees:

Name	Representing
Mark Alexander	TSO
Nicholas Harvey	TSO
Frank Burke	Storage
Donal Smith	Renewables
Kate Garth	Renewables
Margaret Nee (online)	Renewables
Noel Cunniffe	Renewables
Paul Blount	Renewables
Rory Mullan	Renewables
John Melvin (partial)	Regulators
Paul Bell	Regulators
Joe Duddy	New Technology
John Fitzgerald	New Technology
Peter Harte	New Technology
Seamus Howard	Manufacturer
Neil Morris	Large Energy Users
Thomas O'Sullivan	Large Energy Users
Brian Diskin	Government
Tony Hearne	DSO
Brian Mongan	Demand Response
Paddy Finn	Demand Response
Jag Basi	Conventional Production
Alan McHugh	Consultancy
Patrick Mohr	Consultancy
Robin McCormick	Consultancy
Michael Conlon	Academia

## Apologies:

Name	Representing
Jane McArdle	Renewables
Robert O'Rourke	Regulators
Carsten Junge	Manufacturer
Federico Rueda Londono	Manufacturer
Fred Mitchell	Large Energy Users
David Hill	DSO
Ellen Diskin	DSO
Trevor Harron	DSO

### Introduction - Liam Ryan, EirGrid

- Liam Ryan welcomed members.
- Previous actions shown in slide deck and updates were as follows:
  1. Problem statement included in slide deck for review with council members.
    - Problem statement shown and discussed.
    - Government and emissions targets may change, the problem statement is reflective of a sustainable and secure system while considering economics.
    - Further input from Advisory Council members will be sought on this.
  2. Thomas O' Sullivan will be the point of contact for this council in relation to the heat sector and we will contact SEAI re the transport sector
  3. North-South Interconnector - current completion date is scheduled in 2026.
  4. Slides included on today's agenda for SOEF V1.1 discussion, also we will continue to brief the members on the SOEF evolution.
- High-level overview of SOEF workstream programme performance shown and discussed.
- Detailed programme plan performance shared with council members in advance of the meeting.

**ACTION:** 'Rapidly' to be added to the problem statement.

**ACTION:** TSOs to consider wording change from "transforming" to "creating a framework for transformation" of the market

**ACTION:** Revised problem statement to be shared with council members for consultation.

**ACTION:** Council members to review problem statement and propose amendments.

### Northern Ireland Energy Policy - Alan Campbell, SONI

- Alan Campbell gave an overview presentation on NI government targets' impact on SOEF.
- All-Island targets are currently aligned.
- Alan expressed concerns in relation to delivery of Future Arrangements System Services (FASS).
- NI carbon budget discussed.
- Challenges with renewables in NI discussed.
- Members identified a need for greater cross border policy coordination - this need was echoed by DECC

**ACTION:** SONI to consider producing an updated Northern Ireland constraints report.

### Climate Action Plan 2023 - Philip Newsome, DECC

- Philip Newsome gave a presentation on Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP23).
- CAP23 sets legally binding emission ceilings and carbon budgets per sector. All points as per the official CAP23 document - 2025 and 2030 key performance indicators/ targets shown and discussed.
- FASS is in CAP23 and is an urgent priority. DECC committed to support the delivery of FASS.
- Lack of MW targets for storage discussed - DECC are looking at it this year.
- Transfer of carbon emission budget between sectors discussed - there is a concern that other sectors will electrify to decarbonise and meet their targets - this will put more pressure on the electricity sector.
- Establishment of the Accelerating Renewable Electricity Taskforce is underway - industry noted disappointment at lack of industry representation on this
- Hydrogen strategy - DECC are still going through responses to the consultation

**ACTION:** TSOs will include a breakdown of storage requirements by duration and capacity for SOEF V1.1

### SOEF Version 1.1 - Robbie Aherne, EirGrid

- Robbie Aherne gave an update presentation on SOEF V1.1 progress to date.
- SOEF V1.1 will consider the published carbon budgets within CAP23.
- Energy security and decarbonisation discussed.
- CAP23's publication has necessitated additional analysis; this Wave 4 analysis is ongoing and target delivery for publication is calendar Q2 2023.
- Changing negative public narrative discussed. Pro-active engagement required.
- EirGrid explained in broad terms how capacity and operability are modelled.
- Industry seeking further clarification on the market evolution to support both governments targets

**ACTION:** TSOs to engage with the Advisory Council before publication of Tomorrows Energy Scenarios.

### Operations Discussion - Eoin Kennedy, EirGrid / Simon Tweed, EirGrid

- Eoin Kennedy gave an overview of the Operations programme of work highlighting key activities to date and planned future activities.

- Low Carbon Inertia Services (LCIS) update provided in slide deck.
- Approach to LCIS procurement versus approach to broader Future Arrangements for System Services discussed.
- Zero carbon system services and system benefits/costs discussed.

### Operational Policy Roadmap

- Simon Tweed gave a detailed presentation on the Operational Policy Roadmap 2023-2030.
- Global system constraints discussed.
- SNSP will remain a key metric, but not a binding constraint.
- Process for changes to operational policy discussed.
- Weekly TCGs (Transmission Constraint Groups) discussed.
- Reduction of operational constraints beyond 2030 discussed.
- Ramping requirement and low min gen discussed.
- Balanced portfolio and hydrogen-ready generation was discussed with respect to incentivising the right type of thermal generation.

### Markets Discussion - David Carroll, EirGrid Group / Dairine Frawley, EirGrid Group

#### Future Arrangements System Services (FASS)

- David Carroll gave an overview presentation of the FASS project and progress to date.
- TSOs expressed serious concerns around lack of governance, clarity on ask and funding to progress the FASS programme.
- David noted that in lieu of these requirements the TSOs would be unable to progress FASS further beyond the end of January 2023.
- Confirmation by the presenters that there is a risk that delays could be non-linear (i.e. one-month delay now could result in knock-on or further delays in the future)
- Regulators responded to the FASS presentation as follows:
  - There is full support from the Regulatory Authorities for the FASS programme and they see no reason to stand it down
  - There is joint governance already in place in the form of the SEM-Committee
  - There are cost recovery mechanisms in place
  - A positive letter (constructive, helpful and firm) is on the way to the TSOs to reflect this position
- TSOs noted that they will reflect on the contents of the letter when it is received and will revert.
- General agreement between Advisory Council members and the TSOs that the proposed FASS solution is highly complex

Post Meeting Note from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2023: TSOs will continue to progress the FASS project. The TSOs are working collectively with the RAs to address the matters of governance, clarity and funding as raised at the Advisory Council.

**ACTION:** Ask from industry for an end to end action plan from the Regulators around the solution for FASS

#### Scheduling and Dispatch

- Dairine Frawley gave a high-level presentation of the Scheduling and Dispatch (S&D) project and progress to date.
- Challenges with approach discussed. Consideration of a phased approach was discussed
- There are additional developments which are not included in the current project scope. - negative price hours and negative physical notifications. TSOs do not have a timeline for these now
- Dispatchable demand discussed.
- Enduring implementation and the change to pricing oversupply discussed.

**ACTION:** TSO to include consideration of an enduring implementation for Scheduling and Dispatch in overall plan

### EirGrid Group Capability - Siobhan Toale, EirGrid Group

- Siobhan Toale gave a comprehensive presentation on the EirGrid Group capability requirements to delivery for 2030 and beyond.
- Council members agreed that this is a challenge faced sector wide.
- Introduction to university and youth groups discussed.
- Insight sharing and cross-coordination discussed.
- Discussion around senior industry members returning on flexible basis
- WEI working on cross-coordination in relation to capability

**Engagement Discussion** - Sinead Dooley, EirGrid

- Sinead Dooley detailed presentation on recent public engagement sessions, outlining the positive feedback and any issues that arose.
- Discussion - climate dominates discussion with the public now, but Security of Supply is increasingly relevant
- Council members agree that public acceptance is critical to ensure delivery of SOEF and CAP23 targets.
- Energy cost and energy security of supply discussed.
- Need for communities to feel part of the discussion - noted
- WEI aim to launch a support initiative ‘Build Our Grid’ by April 2023.

**Networks Discussion** - Yvonne Coughlan, EirGrid / Elin Ahlund, EirGrid

- Yvonne Coughlan gave a presentation on the networks programme and progress to date in Ireland.
- Projected increase in Network projects for PR6 timeline (2026-2030) discussed.
- Planning consents is a major issue in delivery of the networks programme - engagement with An Bord Pleanála is key.
- Continued engagement and utilisation of data discussed.
- Outages remain a challenge to the current network
- Project delivery timeframes are required to be transparent to address short term issues.
- Discussion held on uncertainty to projects caused by delays in planning
- Elin Ahlund gave an update presentation on the networks programme and progress to date in Northern Ireland.

**ACTION:** Review the RAG status of the Networks programme considering the increasing project pipeline and constraints discussed

**AOB** - Liam Ryan, EirGrid

- TSOs intention is to publish details on energy storage in SOEF V1.1.
- Engagement with industry in relation to RA funding approach for FASS requested.
- ECP report publication discussed.

Actions	Owner
‘Rapidly’ to be added to the problem statement.	TSOs
TSOs to consider wording change from “transforming” to “creating a framework for transformation” of the market	TSOs
Revised problem statement to be shared with council members.	TSOs
Council members to review problem statement and propose amendments.	Council members
SONI to consider producing an updated Northern Ireland constraints report	SONI
TSOs will include a breakdown of storage requirements by duration and capacity for SOEF V1.1	TSOs
TSOs to engage with the Advisory Council before publication of Tomorrows Energy Scenarios	TSOs
Ask from industry for an end to end action plan from the Regulators around the solution for FASS	Regulators
TSOs to include consideration of an enduring implementation for Scheduling and Dispatch in overall plan	TSOs
Review the RAG status of the Networks programme considering the increasing project pipeline and constraints discussed	TSOs