

# Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council Meeting #7 Minutes



**Date:** January 16<sup>th</sup> 2024

**Time:** 10:00 - 16:00

**Venue:** Herbert Park Hotel, Dublin Ireland

**Chairs:** Liam Ryan, Alan Campbell

## Council Member Attendees:

Name	Representing
Alexander, Mark	TSO
Basi, Jag	Conventional Production
Blount, Paul	Renewables
Burke, Frank	Storage
Conlon, Michael	Academia
Cunniffe, Noel	Renewables
Diskin, Brían	Government
Diskin, Ellen	DSO
Finn, Paddy (online)	Demand Response
Fitzgerald, John	New Technology
Garth, Kate	Renewables
Harte, Peter	New Technology
Hearne, Tony	DSO
Howard, Seamus (online)	Manufacturer
McArdle, Jane (online)	Renewables
McCormick, Robin (online)	Consultancy
McHugh, Alan	Consultancy
Mullan, Rory	Renewables
Nee, Margaret (online)	Renewables
O'Rourke, Robert	Regulators
O'Sullivan, Thomas	Large Energy Users
Smith, Donal	Renewables

## Apologies:

Name	Representing
Broomfield, Colin	Regulators
Duddy, Joe	New Technology
Harron, Trevor	DSO
Harvey, Nicholas	TSO
Hill, David	DSO
Junge, Carsten	Manufacturer
Melvin, John	Regulators
Mitchell, Fred	Large Energy Users
Mohr, Patrick	Consultancy
Mongan, Brian	Demand Response
Morris, Neil	Large Energy Users
Rueda, Federico Londono	Manufacturer
Russell, Peter	N. Ireland, Department for the Economy

## Introduction - Liam Ryan, Alan Campbell

- Liam Ryan and Alan Campbell welcomed members and guests.
- John Fitzgerald paid tribute to Eddie O'Connor.

## Housekeeping - Liam Ryan, EirGrid

### 1. SOEF Advisory Council Membership Refresh

- **Note:** The TSOs will look to refresh the ACM Membership in early 2024. Industry are invited to submit expressions of interest.
- **Action:** TSOs to issue call for expressions of interest. (See Action #1)
- **Action:** TSOs to update the ACM at the next AC Meeting (See Action #2)

### 2. SOEF Cross-Programme Working Groups

- **Note:** The TSOs look to establish cross-programme working groups to provide targeted forums for the efficient and effective use of the Members', TSOs', and more broadly the industry's resources. Use of alternates will be explored for SOEF-level working groups.
- **Action:** AC Members to submit their ideas for the types of working groups that will benefit progression of the various SOEF programmes. (See Action #3)
- **Action:** TSOs to update the ACM at the next AC Meeting (See Action #4)
- **Question:** Will the use of alternate Members be explored for the working groups?
  - **TSO response:** Yes, that will be considered as Working Group and their Terms of Reference are formed.

## SOEF v1.1 Reporting - Edel Leddin, TSO

- **TSOs** provided an update on the portfolio-level progress of SOEF v1.1 as of January 2024.
- **Note:** **TSOs** posed the questions - "How might we work together more in mitigation these challenges?" and "How can the Advisory Council Support?"
- **Note:** **CRU** noted that funding must follow the established processes, given the large amount of monies (~500M EUR) of public money. It is incumbent upon the TSOs to make that case.
- **Note:** **Member** noted that while 500M is a sum of money, it is much smaller than the level of investment by industry (30-40 Bn EUR).
- **Note:** **Member** noted that programme delays ultimately lead to consumer costs. It would be helpful to model this when considering the timeliness of funding and assessing the impact a programme delay.
- **Note:** **Member** noted appreciation for the update and posed the question -
  - "Is the current system of proposing and approving programme funding fit-for-purpose for the scale and speed of change?"
  - "Could industry author/co-author a proposed way forward for efficient programme approval and funding?" (**See Action #15**)
- **Note:** **Member** notes the RAs process and proposed council/forum for managing the increased volume of programmes. He also noted that it's important to complete programmes that we have committed to deliver. As to what the industry can achieve - holding people accountable to their responsibilities in achieving government policy - is one of the roles of the Advisory Council.
- **Note:** **Member** notes the benefit of a framework for sharing and improving coordinated models for planning. Would be a great benefit to see the model and results used in business case development.
  - **Action:** TSOs to explore ways of jointly developed and sharing of models and assumptions. This was noted as potential Working Group (**See Action #5**)
- **Question:** Member asked: "Was demand flexibility sufficiently considered in LDES planning studies?"
  - **Response:** TSOs see batteries and demand-side flexibility as key elements to achieving strategic targets. Must be mindful to send right market signals for investment of technology.
- **Note:** **CRU** noted that it's important to have a full set of information to make decision on programme approval and funding.
- **Note:** **Member** noted that too much time is spent on responding to consultation. We need to speed up the process - all parties. In response to that, multiple members noted:
  - Can the industry be involved earlier, before the consultations, as a way to speed up the process?
  - Perhaps a call for evidence?
  - "Call for Evidence" is a type of consultation. The earlier the engagement, the better.
  - **Action:** **Member** is asked to write-up a 1-page summary of how this could manifest.
  - **TSOs** note that this approach has been a central feature of both LDES and SDP, and could be extended as a key principle across the SOEF programmes.
- **Note:** **Member** noted re: programme governance, it's not clear who has primary responsibility across the various programmes.

- **Note: TSOs** note that due to size and scale of change, TSOs have worked with RAs to develop agreed governance model that should allow for more efficient and effective approval and funding process.
- **Note: TSOs** note that the SEMC is the ultimate authority on approving and funding markets programmes.
- **Note: Member** notes that the funding levels associated with SOEF v1.1 are higher than what's been asked for before. Resultingly, should we move away from piecemeal approvals and perhaps look at a different way to approve funds for the broader set of programmes.
- **Note: Member** asked "The Networks tracking on the overall "Milestone on a Page" appears to be light. Are the candidate reinforcements tracked elsewhere?"
  - **Response:** TSOs responded that this information is provided in the Networks Update.
- **Note: Member** asked "Where are the next steps for LDES on the master "Milestone on a Page?"
  - **Response:** TSO responded that the LDES programme is currently reviewing the Call for Evidence submissions and expect to publish a summary in February 2024. Further, the TSOs are working on an updated programme roadmap and will incorporate into the master "Milestone on a Page" at that time.
- **Action:** TSOs ask the AC Members to take away the questions posed by Edel Leddin and revert with their thoughts. (See Action #6)

### Operations Update - Eoin Kennedy, TSO

- **TSOs** provided an update on the progress of SOEF v1.1 Operations programmes.
- **Note: Member** noted the draft ECP2.3 constraints results were provided in December 2023. One of the outcomes of this analysis is that it confirms that the ongoing network work is essential but also that there appears to be requirement for additional reinforcements/works to what was identified by SOEFV1.1.
- **Question:** Has this been considered by EirGrid? (See Action #7) a):
- **Note: Member** asked where are other global players, and the TSOs, on their analysis and progression of grid-forming technologies?
  - **Response:** TSOs currently looking at various technologies and are planning to develop a grid-forming strategy this year. TSOs will look to take advantage of learnings from TSOs that have implemented grid-forming demonstration projects and /or developed standards through forums such as the Global Power System Transformation.
- **Action:** Consider grid-forming technology assessment/adoption as potential working group.
- **Note:** Member notes the importance of having a future (EU-aligned) electricity market design working group. This could be a de facto lobbying group on behalf of Ireland to maintain message discipline - the "All Island View" to the various EU groups.
  - **Response:** TSOs noted the RAs have the central role to play in market design. TSOs also noted the recent finalisation of EU Electricity Market Redesign text in trilogues. This is a potential topic for a Working Group.
  - **Response: Robert O'Rourke** noted it would be useful to fully understand the industry position on this.

### Markets Update - Bryan Murray, Niamh Delaney, Brendan O'Sullivan, Seve Garanzuay, TSOs and MO

- **The team** provided an update on the progress of Future Power Markets programmes. An overview of the recent positives and challenges was discussed. Much discussion across the individual programmes of work, including Scheduling & Dispatch, Future Arrangement System Services, Long-Duration Energy Storage, and Strategic Markets Programmes.
- **The TSOs posed a question to AC Members:** "Can the Advisory Council provide guidance as to how we can develop such a shared integrated plan?"

### Networks Update - Siobhan O'Shea, Elin Ahlund, Eimear Watson, TSOs

- **The team** provided an update on key network developments since the last meeting.
- **Note:** Member noted that connecting customers are not represented in the HV Interface Forum.
  - **Response:** The HV Interface Forum consists of representatives from the relevant state agencies who are, in the first instance, working through matters relating to the interface between road infrastructure and HV electricity infrastructure being delivered by EirGrid & ESNB (as the TSO & TAO respectively). The current focus is on transmission level deep reinforcement project delivery including North Connacht (WG1) and the Transitional Projects (WG2).  
TSOs acknowledged that some connecting customers already have, or may in the future seek to have, an interface with road infrastructure for their customer connection projects.
  - **Action:** TSOs committed to take Member's comment back to the HV Interface Forum for consideration. (See Action # 10)
- **Note:** TSO (EirGrid) noted challenges at energisation / connection stage where customer connection projects are not ready for commissioning and that this is leading to inefficient use of resources, commissioners in particular.

- **Note:** Member noted that connecting customers are also experiencing challenges with the EirGrid / ESNB interface and suggested that it may be useful to share learnings & feedback in both directions to avoid similar challenges going forward.
- **Action:** TSO (EirGrid) committed to taking this suggestion back to the customer connection teams for consideration. (See Action #11)

## Workshops

### EirGrid/ESB Networks TSO/DSO Operating Model

Presenters: Eoin Kennedy, Ellen Diskin

#### Notes:

- EirGrid and ESB Networks presented an overview of the TSO-DSO Operating Model High-Level Design.
- There was a high level of engagement from the workshop participants with commentary provided on:
  - The proposed High-Level Design,
  - Areas which members believe need further consideration as part of the detailed design phase (e.g. locational signals, market power, interfaces, network charges, code changes, and the approach to delivery (interim v. enduring)), and
  - Potential mechanisms for stakeholder communication and engagement on the proposed model over the coming months.

#### Actions:

1. **Action:** Members requested that EirGrid and ESB Networks consider publication of an information paper to set out the thinking and work done to date with conceptual worked examples to support understanding of the potential impacts. (See Action # 17)

### Markets Programmes Value Assessment

Lead: Bryan Murray

Presenters: Bryan Murray, Niamh Delaney, Clarke Little, Brendan O’Sullivan, Jeremy Vincent, Seve Garanzuay

#### Notes:

- The workshop opened by setting expectations on the scope, purpose, and desired outcome for the workshop.  
*The scope* includes the listed markets programmes.  
*The purpose* is to provide an overview of those programmes and a forum for Q&A to discuss their scope, timing, and value.  
*The desired outcome* of the workshop is for Advisory Council Members to take away the markets programmes information and provide input on whether these were the right list of programmes and on the programmes’ value and complexity from their perspective.
- There was discussion on the various markets programmes, with a number of questions on Greenlink Readiness, FASS, LDES, SDP, and Strategic Markets Programmes.
- Members asked about the reliance on a single technology vendor for the market management system. A discussion continued around the small number of vendors (globally) for these market management systems and the trend towards aggregating functional modules into the MMS (scheduling, dispatch, registration, settlements, reporting). The TSO mentioned earlier, and repeated during this workshop, the importance of working with our technology vendors on a strategic, longer-term roadmap that allows the vendors to allocate a sustained level of resources to the TSO markets programmes.
- Members expressed a positive view of how the TSOs are reaching out on LDES and SDP. TSOs encouraged to continue that model for other markets programmes, as has been done in the past. Noted it is likely time for additional cross-programme functional working groups. (See previous action #4)

#### Actions:

1. Advisory Council Members are asked to consider the listed markets programmes and to note any missing programmes and to develop their viewpoint on value and complexity for the programmes.
2. Advisory Council Members are asked to consider the two questions posed in the workshop:
  - **Q1:** Can the industry support delivery of multiple large market change programmes?
  - **Q2:** Does this list miss any markets change programmes?

## AOB - Alan Campbell, SONI

- Next meeting to be conducted in Belfast, Northern Ireland, in May.
- The slide presentations, meeting minutes, and actions will be sent to the Council following this meeting.

## Meeting Actions

#	Topic	Action	Owner	Due	Meeting Xref
1	ACM Membership	TSOs to issue call for Expressions of Interest for Advisory Council Membership	TSOs	Q1 2024	Introduction
2	ACM Membership	TSOs to provide update on ACM Membership refresh at upcoming ACM #8	TSOs	ACM #8	Introduction
3	SOEF Cross-Programme Working Groups	AC Members to submit their ideas for the types of working groups that will benefit progression of the various SOEF programmes.	AC Members	Q1 2024	Introduction
4	SOEF Cross-Programme Working Groups	TSOs to update the Advisory Council on the establishment of cross-programme working groups.	TSOs	ACM #8	Introduction
5	Sharing Models and Assumptions	TSOs to consider methods for joint developing and sharing models and assumptions. Was noted that this is a potential topic for a Working Group.	TSOs	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Reporting
6	Delivery Challenges – Input from AC Members	<p>AC Members asked to consider the questions posed during the SOEF v1.1 update and revert with their thoughts. Shown on slide 13 of the ACM #7 presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. How might we work together more in mitigation these challenges?</li> <li>2. How can the Advisory Council Support?</li> </ol>	AC Members	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Reporting
7	Draft ECP 3.2	<p>Question posed by Member: In relation to the draft ECP2.3 constraints report. The results were provided in December 2023. One of the outcomes of this analysis is that it confirms that the ongoing network work is essential but also that there appears to be requirement for additional reinforcements/works to what was identified by SOEFV1.1.</p> <p>“Have the TSOs considered this?”</p>	TSOs	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Operations Update
8	SOEF Working Group suggestion	Member suggested “Grid forming technology” as potential working group for SOEF. TSOs to consider.	TSOs	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Operations Update
9	SOEF Working Group suggestion	Member suggested “Future EU Electricity Market Design” as potential working group for SOEF. TSOs to note as potential topic for Working Group.	TSOs	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Operations Update

#	Topic	Action	Owner	Due	Meeting Xref
10	Member participation in HV Interface Forum	Re: Member involvement in HV Interface Forum.  TSOs committed to take Member's comment back to the HV Interface Forum for consideration.	TSOs	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Networks Update
11	Customer Connection Feedback and Learnings	Re: Customer connections challenges: Member expressed desire for sharing learnings & feedback in both directions.  TSO (EirGrid) committed to taking this suggestion back to the customer connection teams for consideration	TSO (EirGrid)	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Networks Update
12	Markets Programmes Value Assessment	Advisory Council Members are asked to take away the markets programmes information and provide input on whether these were the right list of programmes and on the programmes' value and complexity from their perspective	Members	3 weeks from distribution of slides	<b>Workshop:</b> Markets Programmes Value Assessment
13	Markets Programmes Value Assessment	TSOs to receive and analyse AC Member responses. TSOs to revert at or before next ACM (#8).	TSOs (Markets Workstream)	ACM #8	<b>Workshop:</b> Markets Programmes Value Assessment
14	Markets Programmes Value Assessment	Advisory Council Members are asked to consider the two questions posed in the workshop:  1. <b>Q1:</b> <i>Can the industry support delivery of multiple large market change programmes?</i>  2. <b>Q2:</b> <i>Does this list miss any markets change programmes?</i>	Members	ACM #8	<b>Workshop:</b> Markets Programmes Value Assessment
15	Programme Approval and Funding	Members and TSO are asked to consider and respond to the following questions posed by an Advisory Council Member:  1. <i>"Is the current system of proposing and approving programme funding fit-for-purpose for the scale and speed of change?"</i>  2. <i>Could industry author/co-author a proposed way forward for efficient programme approval and funding?"</i>	Members TSOs	ACM #8	SOEF v1.1 Reporting

#	Topic	Action	Owner	Due	Meeting Xref
16	Integrated Markets Plan	During the Markets Update, the TSOs posed a question to members: 1. Can the Advisory Council provide guidance as to how we can develop such a shared integrated plan?	Members	ACM #8	SEOF v1.1 Markets Update
17	EirGrid / ESB Networks TSO-DSO Operating Model	Members requested that EirGrid and ESB Networks consider publication of an information paper to set out the thinking and work done to date with conceptual worked examples to support understanding of the potential impacts.	EirGrid ESB Networks	ACM #8	<b>Workshop:</b> EirGrid/ESB Networks TSO-DSO Operating Model