# Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF) Advisory Council Meeting #10 Minutes

**Date:** February 6th, 2024
**Time:** 10:00 – 16:00
**Venue:** Herbert Park Hotel, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4
**Chairs:** Liam Ryan (EirGrid) and Gerard Carlin (SONI)
**Impartial Moderator:** Colleen Savage (M-Co Ltd.)

**Council Member Attendees:**

| Name | Representing |
|---|---|
| Bobby Smith | Storage |
| Brian Mongan | Demand Response |
| David Graham | Renewables |
| Frank Burke | Storage |
| Jag Basi | Conv. Production |
| James Delahunt | Consultant |
| John Fitzgerald | New Technology |
| Joseph McCann | Large Energy Users |
| Kate Garth | Renewables |
| Laura Mehigan | Renewables |
| Lisa Foley | Consultant |
| Margaret Nee | Renewables |
| Mark Alexander | TSO |
| Mark Fitch | New Technology |
| Noel Cunniffe | Renewables |
| Paddy Finn | Demand Response |
| Paddy Fitzgerald | Conv. Production |
| Paul Blount | Storage |
| Peter Harte | New Technology |
| Robin McCormick | Consultant |
| Rory Mullan | Consultant |
| Seamus Howard | Manufacturer |
| Siobhan O'Halloran | Gas Networks |
| Stacy Feldmann | Conv. Production |
| Thomas O'Sullivan | Large Energy Users |
| | |
| Brían Diskin | DECC |
| Fergal McParland | DECC |
| Linzi Hyvart | DfE |
| Marie Therese Campbell | UR |
| Robert O'Rourke | CRU |
| Sarah Brady | DfE |
| Teresa Fallon | ESB Networks (DSO) |
| Tony Collins | DECC |
| Tony Hearne | ESB Networks (DSO) |
| Zoe Crowe | DfE |

**Apologies from:**

| Name | Representing |
|---|---|
| Brendan Kelly | Renewables |
| David Laverty | Academia |
| Graham McWilliams | Large Energy Users |
| Harry McCracken | Renewables |
| Jonathan Wisdom | TSO |
| Neil Morris | Large Energy Users |
| Paul Lennon | Gas Networks |
| Seamus Howard | Manufacturing |
| | |
| Colin Broomfield | UR |
| David Hill | NIE Networks (DSO) |
| John Melvin | CRU |
| Leo Strawbridge | DfE |
| Trevor Harron | NIE Networks (DSO) |

## Opening Remarks by Gerard Carlin, Director of Networks & Innovation, SONI

- **Gerard Carlin** in his capacity as co-chair, welcomed everyone and thanked Liam and the organising team for putting the day together.
- In 2022, TSO's published an operational policy roadmap outlining objectives through 2024.
- In 2023, the progress was on track, with carbon emission reductions aligning with the roadmap.
- For 2024, improvements included the removal of certain operational constraints (e.g., moving from 8 to 7 thermal generation plants by EirGrid and SONI) and the procurement of 6 synchronous compensators through the framework.
- A review of the operational policy roadmap—with new initiatives out to 2035—is planned for publication at the end of February 2025.
- Gerard set the tone by emphasising a collaborative, open, and transparent meeting with plenty of time allocated for questions and reflection.

## Opening Remarks by Liam Ryan, Chief Technology & Transformation Officer, EirGrid

- **Liam Ryan** welcomed the attendees and introduced a refreshed format, noting that changes had been made (including bringing in a new moderator, Colleen Savage) based on previous feedback.
- Acknowledgement of Recent Storm (Éowyn):
- Liam mentioned that Storm Éowyn was one of the worst from a transmission perspective.
- Specific impacts included the temporary loss of Mayo, impact in Galway, around 103 faults, and 15 circuits forced down (most of which were restored within a week).
- He praised the collaborative work with ESB Networks, NIEN, and other stakeholders, as well as the dedicated work of DSOs' in reconnecting customers.
- Importance of the Advisory Council:
- Liam underscored that the storm's challenges demonstrated the need for a forum like the Advisory Council—where multiple stakeholders can collaboratively address issues. He thanked the council for its ongoing support and guidance.

## Introduction by Moderator (Colleen Savage)

- **Colleen Savage** introduced herself as an independent moderator from M-Co, a company specialising in strategic planning and implementation for vibrant societies.
- She noted her previous work with EirGrid's public engagement team and expressed admiration for the scale and ambition of the renewable generation goals within the "Shaping" initiative.
- She emphasised that her role was to ensure that all voices were heard and to facilitate progress according to the meeting's terms of reference. Colleen outlined the day's agenda, highlighting that there would be time for Q&A throughout the session.

## Presentation: "Thinking Differently About Grid Development: The Opportunity of Change in Northern Ireland"

**Presenter: Gareth Brown, Head of Corporate Affairs, SONI**

- Discussed SONI's evolving strategy: multi-year strategy to be published soon.
- Advocated for a plan-led approach to align energy development with policy and stakeholder priorities.
- Key challenges and opportunities:
  - Balancing cost, decarbonization pace, supply security, and time constraints.
  - Misalignments in the current system (e.g., dispatch-down levels).
  - Building infrastructure efficiently while accommodating all connection requests.
- Insights on spatial energy planning:
  - Suggested it as a policy vehicle for Northern Ireland to balance demand, investment, and regional priorities.
  - Highlighted potential benefits, including stable investment signals, regional economic growth (e.g., offshore renewable hubs in Derry), and alignment with industrial development.
  - Cited the Connect West project as a lesson in avoiding future misalignment.
- Collaboration and policy:
  - Noted the role of the Electricity Networks Commissioner (Nick Windsor) in streamlining transmission development.
  - Advocated integrating energy planning into local development plans for better alignment.
  - Stressed the importance of community benefits to secure consumer confidence and support.
  - Gareth urged a long-term perspective on network development to avoid delaying net-zero targets.
- Welcomed questions and feedback from attendees.

## Questions & Answers from the Council: "Thinking Differently About Grid Development: The Opportunity of Change in Northern Ireland"

- **Member (Comment):** Raised concerns about dispatch-down rates and the need for a fundamental review of priorities, particularly around storage and flexible demand. Emphasised moving beyond a "Business As Usual" approach.
- **Gareth Brown (Response):** Acknowledged the challenge as a mismatch between developer progress and grid capabilities.
- Highlighted the value of a plan-led approach to align demand sources, technology, and system needs.
- **Member (Question):** Supported a plan-led approach but warned of potential downsides:
  - Risk of over-prescription that could stifle developer innovation.
  - Importance of flexibility in design and fostering competition.
  - Asked if SONI had considered the risks of being too rigid in planning.
- **Gareth Brown (Response):** Stressed the balance between a plan-led approach and market-driven innovation.
- **Member (Comment):** Agreed on the merits of plan-led approaches but emphasised the need for sophisticated procurement signals to support long-term investment in renewable generation, storage, and demand-side response. Warned that crude procurement systems could lead to inefficiencies and stifle innovation.
- **Gareth Brown (Response):** Reinforced that a spatial energy plan could act as a collaborative tool to align market needs and policy goals. Highlighted the importance of co-developing plans with stakeholders, regulators, and civic groups.
- **Member (Question):** How does SONI plan to manage its wide-ranging priorities (investment, regional growth, industrial policy) and is SONI considering new funding models?
- **Gareth Brown (Response):** SONI is not considering new funding models but collaborates with other system operators (e.g., gas TSOs). Emphasised SONI's role within a broader Team Northern Ireland approach, ensuring regional balance and strategic demand placement. Referred to regulatory approval processes for efficient planning and consumer confidence.
- **Member (Question):** How will SONI ensure investment signals are appropriate and avoid luring key technologies away from NI to other markets?
- **Gareth Brown (Response):** Highlighted the uniqueness of NI's system, including its rural economy and biomethane potential, which allows for jurisdiction-specific solutions. Stressed collaboration with GB stakeholders to ensure alignment while developing tailored solutions for NI.

**Moderator:** Key takeaways from the session:
1. Timing is increasingly critical in planning.
2. Agility and collaboration are essential, as the challenges are unprecedented.
3. The "plan-led approach" will be explored further in Breakout Group Table 4: Net Zero Networks later in the day.

## SOEF v1.1 Workstreams Panel

- **Moderator** introduced the panel of workstream leads.

**David Carroll (Future Power Markets) and Michael Atcheson (Future Power Markets, SONI):**

- **David Carroll** discussed challenges with market implementation programs, specifically delays in Tranche 1 of SDP due to IT system vendor issues.
- Mitigation efforts include monthly industry calls and surveys, with plans to go live with batteries in May 2025 and other components in September 2025.
- Awaiting final SEM Committee approval for non-priority dispatch renewed modification.
- Discussed Future Arrangements for System Services (FASS) and the need for a new auction system to facilitate same. The contractual arrangements with the successful tender were delayed and updates would be provided at the ongoing monthly sessions.
- Highlighted the engagement with industry on Long Duration Energy Storage (LDES) following DECC's policy framework.
- Sought council input on managing the impact of delays on participants.

**John Ging (Strategic Markets Program):**

- **John Ging** outlined the Strategic Markets Program (SMP) focusing on EU-GB integration, Balancing Market Reform, and SEM UK arrangements post-Brexit.
- Emphasised the need to prepare participants for significant IT changes and new technologies.
- Discussed the introduction of new balancing market reforms post-Celtic Interconnector go-live, expected by late 2026 or early 2027.

**Eoin Kennedy (System Operations, EirGrid):**

- **Eoin Kennedy** provided updates on System Operations, focusing on capability enhancements, modelling, tools, and transmission constraint removal.
- Highlighted the completion of studies for the 80% SNSP trial and the publication of a TSO demand-side whitepaper.
- Discussed upcoming initiatives, including LCIS phase 2 consultation and a negative reserve trial in Northern Ireland.
- Mentioned the review of the Operational Policy Roadmap and the importance of evolving operational policy in response to grid challenges.

**Sinéad Dooley (Public Engagement):**

- **Sinéad Dooley** emphasised the critical role of public engagement in grid delivery.
- Called for support from advisory council members to help build the grid, highlighting the importance of collaboration with local authorities and communities.
- Discussed the effectiveness of community forums and the need for public acceptance of infrastructure projects.
- Shared examples of successful collaboration, such as the Dublin Infrastructure Forum.

**Jason Kenna (Network Projects Ireland):**

- **Jason Kenna** provided updates on network projects associated with Shaping Our Electricity Future (SOEF).
- Highlighted major projects, including the East Meath North Dublin and Kildare-Meath 400kV underground connections.
- Discussed progress on the Louth-Woodland and Maynooth substation 220kV line uprate and the Powering Up Dublin initiative.
- Addressed risks related to third-party land acquisition, community engagement, and acceptance of underground cabling by road authorities.
- Emphasised the importance of collaboration and feedback from advisory council members to overcome challenges.
- MARA and MAC Application Timelines: Emphasised the importance of working within the timelines and collaborating with ESB to develop projects during the consenting periods.
- Highlighted the risk of acceptance by roads authorities for underground cabling within existing assets.
- Established a HV interface forum to work with roads authorities on integrating underground cables within existing infrastructure.
- Progress made on projects during the development phase, incorporating lessons learned into future projects.

**Eimear Watson (Network Projects, NI):**

- Highlighted three key projects and the establishment of a joint management office with NIE Networks to improve efficiency and collaboration.
- Aimed to deliver grid projects more efficiently, holding each other accountable from conception to energization.

- Focused on detailed and accurate programs, better change management, risk management, and alignment in project prioritization.
- Baselined all transmission projects with NIE and challenged timelines and assumptions to publish accurate dates for industry planning.
- North-South Interconnector: Reached a critical milestone with the handover to NIE Networks for construction.
- Construction of the substation started in November, and overhead lines in January.
- Continuing with the necessary wayleave process and addressing a judicial review related to pre-commencement conditions.
- Mid Antrim Upgrade: Continued landowner engagement and identified the optimum substation location and corridor for the overhead line.
- Agreement with the Utility Regulator to shift from wayleaves to easements for overhead line construction.
- Seeking a funding uplift to gain land access rights before full planning, aiming for efficiency gains.

## Questions and Comments from the Council: SOEF v1.1 Workstreams Panel

- **Moderator** opened the floor for questions and comments.

- **Member (Question):** Inquired about the delays of the North-South interconnector and its impact on renewables, emissions, and consumers.
- **Sinéad Dooley (Response):** Explained the engagement with over 400 landowners and the move to the statutory CPO process due to the inability to secure all voluntary agreements.
- Indicated that the original 3-year construction timeline has been extended to 5 years, with completion expected by 2031.
- **Eoin Kennedy(Response):** Highlighted the North-South tie line as a significant binding constraint for operation of the power system with associated market-related costs.
- Discussed the need to evolve operational policy to address issues like data centre fault ride through.
- **Member (Question):** Requested more details on data centre fault ride through and its impact on increasing SNSP.
- **Eoin Kennedy (Response):** Explained the challenges posed by data centres reducing demand during faults.
- Emphasised the need for grid code modifications and collaboration with data centres to address these issues.
- **Member (Comment):** Asked about the timeline for balancing market reforms.
- **John Ging and David Carroll (Response):** Discussed the parallel implementation of balancing market reforms with other elements and the need for regulatory and vendor capacity changes.
- Encouraged participation in monthly industry workshops for updates and collaboration.
- **Member (Question):** Inquired about updates on the Clogher-Srananagh circuit project.
- **Jason Kenna (Response):** Provided an update on the project's progress, including technology options and engagement with landowners and community stakeholders.
- Highlighted the challenges posed by the geography and the need for careful planning and communication.
- **Member (Questions):** Raised two questions about the impact of industry requiring technical specifications for Future market changes early in process so industry can build their own IT interfaces/solutions and F-Gas EU regulations affecting switchgear.
- **David Carroll (Response):** David noted this feedback and commented that this will be flagged as part of each initiative. For example, for FASS there is a target to have this with industry by Summer 2025. David proposed more detailed discussions in future monthly sessions and deep dives on technical specifications.
- **Jason Kenna (Response):** Mentioned ongoing work with ESB on GIS equipment and ensuring new projects are sized suitably for future requirements.
- **Member (Comment):** Suggested setting up formal working groups for market optimization and discussed the possibility of compensation for delays.
- **David Carroll (Response):** Explained the SDP incentive and the regulatory review process to address delays.
- **Member (Question):** Asked about the impact of data centres on operational policy and new technologies.
- **Eoin Kennedy (Response):** Emphasised the importance of progressing grid code modifications and augmenting grid capabilities to address the challenges posed by the post-fault response of some large energy users.
- **Member (Question):** Inquired about the timeline for decisions on the "gap" consultation related to FASS.
- **David Carroll (Response):** Discussed the phased implementation roadmap and the need to bridge the gap between DS3 and FASS arrangements.
- **Member (Question):** Raised a question about the status of network projects in IRE and the need for clarity in reporting.
- **Jason Kenna (Response):** Explained the transition from the Network Delivery Plan (NDP) to the Integrated Transmission Program (ITP) and the prioritization process for decision-making.

## Presentation: A Network Fit for Net Zero

**Presenter: David Noronha, Head of Future Power Networks, EirGrid**

**Introduction:**
- David Emphasised the need to refresh thinking and focus on achieving net zero after delivering the goals of "Shaping Our Electricity Future" (SOEF).

**Planning Approach:**
- Utilised assumptions from Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios (TES) published in May 2024.
- Conducted a system needs assessment to identify the problem statement for the net zero plan.
- Adopted a similar methodology to the SOEF strategy.
- Focused on the "Self-sustaining" scenario as the base model, considering both domestic energy needs and industrial demand from Large Energy Users (LEUs).

**Demand Growth:**
- Historical Context: Demand doubled between 1992 and 2024 over three decades.
- Future Projection: Expected to double again in a single decade due to electrification, economic, and population growth.

**System Needs Assessment:**
- Previewed the expected output of TES-NA, highlighting priority areas for network improvements.
- Objective: Develop a holistic network masterplan to deliver on net zero, focusing on both transmission and distribution.

**Collaboration:**
- Involved ESB Networks (ESBN) and Gas Networks Ireland (GNI) in the planning process.
- Emphasised the importance of early investment and collaboration with energy industry stakeholders.

**Network Plan:**
- Aimed at maximum electrification across the island and sensitivity around offshore wind potential.
- Recognized the plan as both a network and economic plan to support local economic growth.
- Focused on network infrastructure while considering operations and markets.

**Societal Plan:**
- Stressed the need for societal buy-in and collective effort to achieve the net zero goals.
- Acknowledged the challenges in delivering infrastructure and the importance of starting early.

**Approach:**
- Collaborated with international experts and used TES as the backdrop for modelling assumptions.

## Presentation: The Decarbonisation of the Heat Sector

**Presenter: Tony Collins** (Head of Heat Policy Division, DECC) and **Fergal McParland** (Chief Technical Advisor, DECC)

- **Tony Collins:** Discussed the progress of district heating in Europe and the current status in Ireland, where 90% of heat production is still fossil fuel based.
- Explained district heating as a central heat network using insulated pipes to heat buildings, with potential sources including bio, waste heat, and geothermal.
- Highlighted the targets set by the EU Renewable Energy Directive and Ireland's Climate Action Plan to increase renewable district heating and reduce GHG emissions.
- Mentioned the DECC Heat Study, which found that 54% of heat demand in Ireland could be met by district heating.
- Discussed the need for investment, legislation, and regulation to develop district heating infrastructure.
- Provided examples of ongoing projects, including a major project in South Dublin using waste heat from a data centre.

## Questions and Comments from Council Members: The Decarbonisation of the Heat Sector

- **Member (Comment):** emphasised the opportunity for renewable heat growth in Ireland and inquired about using excess electricity for electric boilers.
- **Tony Collins (Response):** fossil fuels are ruled out, but other heat sources are being considered.
- **Fergal McParland (Comment):** highlighted the cross-sectoral aspects and the need to remove barriers to entry for district heating networks.

- **Member (Comment):** discussed the potential for heat to provide flexibility through storage and suggested more sophisticated auctions for demand-side response.
- **Marc Senouci (Comment):** provided an update on modelling heat in the enduring connection policy to reduce dispatch down.
- **Member (Comment):** welcomed the discussion and called for a review of tariffs and treating flexible demand as a system tool.
- **Member (Comment):** emphasised the opportunity for industrial heat users to use excess renewable electricity and the need for policy alignment between sectors.
- **Member (Comment):** highlighted the potential for electrified heat in industrial customers and the importance of carbon reduction in driving investment.
- **Fergal McParland (Comment):** acknowledged the feedback and mentioned ongoing work to develop a tariff framework for district heating.
- **Member (Question):** asked for more details on the specifications for district heating schemes.
- **Member (Comment):** raised concerns about electricity tariffs and the need for a review to support district heating and energy storage.
- **Moderator (Question):** asked about the impact of retrofitting on decarbonizing heating.
- **Tony Collins (Response)** that district heating and heat pumps should work together rather than compete, with demand expected to start in industry and public sector before flowing into the residential sector.

## Roundtable Breakout Sessions

- Advisory Council Members formed four Breakout Tables, each with an EirGrid/SONI facilitator focussed on a specific topic.
- **Liam Ryan** reflected on the morning's agenda, emphasising the importance of collaboration and the need to work closely together towards 2030 and 2040 goals.
- **Moderator** introduced the breakout group discussions, with each table facilitated by an EirGrid or SONI representative. Participants were asked to select a notetaker to present on the views, ideas and suggestions of the members at each breakout table.

**Breakout Topics:**

1. **Data Centre Fault Ride Through (Non-LEUs)** - Facilitated by Simon Tweed (EirGrid)
    - **Objective**: Ensure clear understanding of issues from power system and data centre perspectives. Obtain views on potential solutions and implementation challenges.
2. **Data Centre Fault Ride Through (LEUs)** - Facilitated by Eoin Kennedy (EirGrid)
    - **Objective**: Ensure clear understanding of issues from power system and data centre perspectives. Obtain views on potential solutions and implementation challenges.
3. **Addressing High Levels of Dispatch Down** - Facilitated by Marc Senouci (EirGrid) and David McGowan (SONI)
    - **Objective**: Understand causes and challenges of dispatch down. Gather insights and identify potential collaborative solutions.
4. **Net Zero Network Consultation** - Facilitated by David Noronha (EirGrid)
    - **Objective**: Inform members on core objectives of Net Zero networks. Gather reactions, test assumptions, identify risks, and build consensus on large-generation injections and demand connections.

## Breakout Playback

- An Advisory Council member volunteered from each table to share their findings with the room.
- The points presented are the views, ideas and suggestions of members but not necessarily considered for action.

**Table 1: Data Centre Fault Ride Through (Non-LEUs)**
**Presenter**: Member
**Key Points**:

- No current standards for fault ride through at demand facilities.
- Identified three potential solutions: grid code requirements, use of system services (negative reserve), and managing voltage dip locationally.
- Challenges include the locational nature of managing voltage dips, lack of common standards applied internationally, and potential costs for data centres.
- Discussed the need for standards (similar to those for wind farms) to facilitate growth in data centre demand.

**Table 2: Data Centre Fault Ride Through (LEUs)**
**Presenter**: Member
**Key Points**:

- Aligned with Table 1 on challenges and solutions.
- Emphasised the difficulty of solving voltage problems due to the need for multiple statcoms.
- Discussed curtailing exports as an immediate solution and long-term solutions like inertia and high frequency through system services.
- Contributions from member on investigating active power injections and the need for 4-5 years to implement solutions.
- Highlighted the significant scale of the issue in Ireland compared to other power systems.
- Discussed the costs, market signals, and technical feasibility of solutions, with a focus on who pays for new system services/products.

**Additional Comments:**

- **Member Reaction**: Inquired about the potential for batteries to address the issue.
- **Simon Tweed (Response)**: Future Arrangement for System Service (FASS) will include high and low frequency products to help manage events.
- **Eoin Kennedy (Response)**: Emphasised the scale of the issue and the need for high frequency response.
- **Member (Comment)**: Discussed the design of network tariffs on MIC (Maximum Import Capacity) with subsequent impact on ability of storage to provide high-frequency services.

**Table 3: Addressing high Levels of Dispatch Down**

**Presenter**: Member

**Drivers of Dispatch Down**:

- **Curtailment**: Operational constraints, including minimum generation units and SNSP.
- **Constraints**: Grid-driven issues, with long-term solutions needed. Lack of locational signals for demand and the challenge of the second North-South Interconnector.
- **Oversupply**: Demand not materializing as expected, and lack of fully responsive demand in terms of time-of-use tariffs.
- **Interconnector Flows**: Driven by price differentials, adding to the problem.

**Potential Solutions and Benefits/Risks**:

**Examples of Solutions**:

- Compensation for Dispatch Down.
- Use of virtual lines using storage.
- Innovation funds.
- Pathfinder trials for different system services.
- Consumer education on responding to excess renewables.
- Energy parks co-locating generation and demand.
- Self-dispatch market.
- Flexibility products for storage (electricity and heat).
- Sector coupling (electricity with gas).
- Electrification (Electric vehicles).

**Benefits**:

- Creating investor certainty for renewable investments.
- Potential cost improvements for consumers.
- Reducing the number of renewable sites needed to meet targets and avoiding EU fines.

**Risks**:

- Balancing the cost of dispatching down vs. grid build-out.
- Considering the cost of Low Carbon Inertia Services and interconnector flows.

**Stakeholder Contributions and Collaborations**:

**Stakeholders**: Investors, Regulatory Authorities, Government, Traders, Consumers, DSOs.

**Priority Areas**:

- **Plan-Led Approach**: Determining what good looks like and acceptable levels of dispatch down.
- **Funding**: Identifying sources (taxes, tariffs, government).
- **Resources**: Need for suitably skilled and targeted resources for market design and flexibility.
- **Accurate Reporting**: Improving dispatch down reporting to identify drivers and focus on solutions.

**Comments and Questions**:

- **Member (Comment)**: Concern about interconnectors being scheduled ex-ante without considering physical limits, leading to renewable congestion.

- **Member (Comment)**: Need for technology-agnostic solutions for energy storage, not just batteries.
- **Member (Response)**: Storage should manage carbon, not just dispatch down.
- **Member (Comment)**: Tracking progress towards 2030, with concerns about the new interconnector to France.
- **Member (Question)**: Feasibility of pricing interconnector differentials based on carbon impact.

**Table 4: Net Zero Network Consultation**
**Presenter**: Member
**Key Points:**

- Emphasised the importance of focusing on significant issues and acknowledging that assumptions may often be incorrect.
- Highlighted the need for consultation to test assumptions and differentiate between wants and needs.
- **David Noronha:** Discussed the importance of testing assumptions through consultation and striving to be as accurate as possible.
- Emphasised the need to highlight differences between wants and needs during consultations.
- **Member (Comment):** Stressed the importance of involving planners to align national planning frameworks with grid planning.
- **Member (Comment):** Highlighted the need to consider water availability for generation needs.

## Facilitator Reflections:

- **Moderator** invited broader reflections from the breakout group facilitators
- **Eoin Kennedy** appreciated the productive discussions and the effort to find solutions.
- **David McGowan** mentioned the Northern Ireland taskforce and the importance of expanding existing frameworks and forums.
- **Marc Senouci** addressed the second Ireland-France interconnector and the importance of having a joint objective and shared responsibility among stakeholders.
- **Sinéad Dooley e**mphasised the need for joined-up thinking between national and regional grid planning.
- Encouraged consideration of proper zoning in local authorities to enable infrastructure development.
- **Member (Comment):** Called for more emphasis on new technology and tools for innovation, not just new system services.

## Final Comments and reflections

- **Liam Ryan a**nnounced the next advisory council meeting at Supernode offices in Dublin, focusing on technology and innovation.
- Encouraged participants to think about new technologies and realistic timelines for implementation.

- **Gerard Carlin r**eflected on the importance of collaboration, understanding problems and solutions, and achieving alignment among diverse priorities.
- Discussed the need for shared responsibility and public engagement to gain buy-in for infrastructure projects.
- Highlighted the role of climate and carbon narratives in gaining public support.

- **Liam Ryan t**hanked participants for their support and contributions.
- Emphasised the progress made and the recognition from other countries.
- Encouraged continued efforts to overcome challenges.

- **Moderator** closed with a thank you and farewell to all.

## Schedule of Advisory Council Meetings in 2025

- 20th May 2025 in Dublin – exact address to be confirmed
- 23rd September 2025 in Belfast

## Meeting Actions

| # | Topic | Action | Owner | Due |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Future Power Markets: Industry engagement | David Carroll to look for ways to enable more granular discussion of topics for industry engagement as part of the monthly future power markets industry call. | David Carroll | Ongoing |
| 2 | Addressing Dispatch Down | Set up a meeting with members in both IRE and NI to agree on what is needed regarding source data on dispatch down levels | David McGowan and Marc Senouci | Apr 2025 |