

SP ENW DSO Stakeholder Panel

Meeting notes – 20 November 2025

Present:	Andrew McIntosh (AMc), Alistair Craig (AC), Matt Fawcett (MF), Kate Gilmartin (KG), Daniel Heery (DH), James Johnson (JJ), Debbie King (DK), Meriel Lakin (ML), Craig Morley (CM), Jamie Shaw-Stewart.
In attendance:	Paul Auckland (PA), Helen Daly (HD), Dave Darley (DD), Stuart Dearden (SD), Antonella de Corato (AdC), Rebecca Drakeford (RD), Paul George (PG), Kate Rogers (KR)
Apologies:	Greg Dodd (GD), Jonathan Edwards (JE), Jennie Stein (JS)

Welcome and conflicts declaration

AMc welcomed all attendees, in particular new members to the panel and new attendees from SP ENW. Apologies were noted, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

Safety moment and business update

PA shared details of SP ENW's monthly safety theme of road safety and gave an update on changes to the business over recent months.

Standing items - review of actions

The action log was reviewed, and updates given on the outstanding actions.

Session theme 1 – regulation and policy update

ED2 Sector Specific Methodology Consultation – DD gave an overview of the key emerging themes from the SSMC, and Ofgem's four consumer outcomes, with a more detailed look at the potential evolving role of DSO in ED3. The panel noted that it would be helpful to see more detail from Ofgem about the evolving role of the DSO as the process developed. The deadline for responses is 3 December and Ofgem's decision is due Q2 2026. Additionally, the ED2 draft business plan guidance is due in Q4 2025. The panel asked that SP ENW keep them updated on developments.

National policy update – RD discussed highlights and potential impacts of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, the Warm Homes Plan, regulatory change for strategic demand connections and CAS, and the Electricity Networks Sector Growth Plan. She also summarised the recent tRESP consultation and noted that NESO had recently published its enduring RESP methodology. SP ENW was currently reviewing this and would keep the panel updated.

A number of topics were highlighted for follow-up, including workforce and skills (in the context of the Energy Networks Sector Growth Plan), data centres and CNI (in the context of regulatory change for strategic demand connections) and RESP.

Given the level of interest in this session theme and time constraints at the regular meetings it was agreed that a policy sub-group would be established to allow more time for discussions. **Action: SP ENW**

Standing items – DSO delivery

PA updated the panel on the Ofgem DSO Performance Panel that was published at the end of September and the feedback received from the panel on SP ENW's DSO activities. PA then shared the DSO team's key initiatives for 2025/26 in each of the activity areas and the panel was invited to review and comment on these.

The panel was supportive of the progress made and the forward plans outlined. There was a discussion around connection issues and data centres, and it was agreed that SP ENW and interested panel members would reconvene to explore this further. Further discussions were also to be scheduled for panel members to share experiences around demand turn-up and V2G. **Action: SP ENW**

Standing items – Communications and stakeholder engagement

KR shared details of recent DSO stakeholder and communications activity as well as forthcoming events and publications that the panel would be asked to provide feedback on.

AdC then gave an overview of SP ENW's draft DNOA report (which had previously been circulated) and the new features that were being included. The panel was asked to provide feedback on the report in advance of its publication. **Action: Panel members**

Standing items – Flexibility services

Following a request for the panel at the previous meeting PG delivered a summary update of the Clean Flexibility Roadmap and the key considerations/impacts for SP ENW and its customers.

PG also shared details of SP ENW's current flexibility tender, noting the significant increase in locations, number and capacity of SP ENW's requirements. The full results of the tender would be shared with the panel at its March 2026 meeting.

The panel asked whether SP ENW would be developing new flexibility products for ED3 or sooner. PG confirmed that SP ENW would be running a series of flexibility forums in 2026 with a wide range of stakeholders, with the objective of developing new flexibility products e.g. short-term flexibility and bespoke tenders, and to inform its future flexibility strategy. The panel would be kept updated as these progressed. **Action: SP ENW**

Session theme 2 – DSO benefits and KPIs

HD provided an update to the panel on the work of the DSO Collaboration forum, chaired by SP ENW, which was working on the standardisation of calculation methodologies for a set of in-scope benefits. Alongside this SP ENW was updating its own CBA model and benefits methodology and it was noted that the panel would be asked to provide review and input early in 2026.

SD then shared EP ENW's scorecard for Q2 and provided an update on the KPIs therein.

Standing items – Panel forward plan

The forward plan in the meeting pack was noted.

AOB and close

AM thanked panel members and ENWL for their time and contribution to the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 21 January 2026.