

ENWL DSO Stakeholder Panel

Meeting notes – 5 March 2025

Present:	Andrew McIntosh (AMc), Gareth Candlin (GC), Matt Fawcett (MF), Kate Gilmartin (KG), James Johnson (JJ), Meriel Lakin (ML), Craig Morley (CM), James Shaw-Stewart (JSS)
In attendance:	Paul Auckland (PA), Helen Daly (HD), Paul George (PG), Ben Grunfeld (BG) Christos Kaloudas (CK), Charlotte Pirie
Apologies:	Greg Dodd (GD), Jonathan Edwards (JE)

Welcome, safety moment and conflicts declaration

AMc welcomed all attendees, apologies were noted, and no conflicts of interest were declared.

BG shared details of ENWL's monthly safety theme of working at height.

Review of actions

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

Relevant industry issues raised by Panel members

Several topics were raised by the panel for future session themes/follow-up conversations:

- ENWL response to National Infrastructure Strategy
- National Infrastructure Commission report on DNOs
- Government consultation on approach to land use
- Seventh Carbon Budget
- Government consultation on Fuel Poverty strategy

Standing items – update from the IOG

AMc updated the panel on agenda items from December IOG meeting and on ENWL's plans to reshape the IOG as it moves into the ED3 business planning processes.

It was noted that the panel's annual terms of reference review was due in June and would be updated where necessary to reflect the changes.

AMc also confirmed that the DSO Panel Chairs had met briefly in February.

Standing items – DSO incentive

HD gave a recap of the structure of the DSO incentive and the timetable for the submission workstreams and stakeholder satisfaction survey. The panel was also reminded of the briefing paper circulated in early February with milestone dates for forthcoming DSO publications, including panel review windows.

Standing items – stakeholder engagement

CP updated the panel on forthcoming events that ENWL was hosting or speaking at.

Session theme 1 – DSO strategy refresh

PA shared some of the presentation material from ENWL's recent online stakeholder roundtable event, noting that panel members had provided initial feedback on ENWL's early thinking which had helped shape this iteration of the proposals.

The panel expressed strong support for the direction of travel, and commented on the positive developments since ENWL shared its early thinking with the panel. Both JJ and ML noted that they could provide input/experience into the development of the proposed Green Bank Fund if ENWL was to take this forward.

The panel also discussed the suggested performance measures and agreed that panel oversight would be key to this reporting. KG recommended ENWL investigate the Social Value TOM system as a potential resource for benchmarking.

PA confirmed that the updated strategy was due for publication by the end of March and formally launched at ENWL's DSO conference on 3 April.

Session theme 2 - flexibility strategy update

PG thanked the panel for its input into the development of ENWL's update flexibility strategy. The panel had been provided with the latest draft of the document prior to the meeting and was invited to share any comments on this version.

The panel was supportive of the strategy and highlighted the criticality of the handoffs between the ENWL DSO and connections teams to ensure wider stakeholder engagement with flexibility. PG agreed and confirmed that an internal working group had been established to address this. The panel also observed that the changing nature of the grid connections landscape would need to be reflected in ENWL's approach. ENWL was also encouraged to share more case studies, either within the document or on ENWL's website to help bring the topic to life for stakeholders.

PG thanked the panel for its feedback and confirmed that ENWL would continue to follow up on the points raised. He also confirmed that ENWL was continuing to develop KPIs in this area, for review by the panel.

Session theme 3 – DSO benefits measurement

HD updated the panel on the work being undertaken by the DSO collaboration forum to address the feedback from the Ofgem DSO panel around DSO benefits measurement. The panel had previously been provided with the draft appendix prepared by the collaboration forum that was intended to be submitted to Ofgem alongside the performance panel submission. CK then outlined ENWL's benefits framework, setting out the theory of change pathway for each initiative. CK confirmed that full details of the benefits calculations would be published in a methodology document, and ENWL was developing a suite of associated KPIs to be reviewed by the panel at the next session.

Session theme 4 – DSO-DNO governance framework

HD gave a recap of the purpose of the DSO-DNO governance framework and the key messages from the document. The panel was asked for feedback on the draft framework that had previously been circulated.

The panel welcomed the publication and observed that it would be helpful to see some worked examples and/or a quantification of the scale/likelihood of any potential conflicts. HD thanked the panel for the feedback and undertook to build this into either the framework itself or as part of the annual compliance report that ENWL had committed to publishing in future years.

Standing items – Panel forward plan

The forward plan in the meeting pack was noted.

AOB and close

HD confirmed that the next session was scheduled for 4 June 2025.

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