Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The first Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting of 2023 took place via Microsoft Teams 1st March 2023. The presentation materials can be found on the ENA website.

The sections below capture feedback that was shared during the session. Alongside this, a Challenge and Actions Log captures key areas for Open Networks to consider and address.
Any further feedback outside of Challenge Group meetings can be sent to opennetworks@energynetworks.org.

Welcome and Apologies

Maxine Frerk (Independent Chair) welcomed all to the group and noted apologies.

The session was attended by those in green below. Attendees marked with * attended part of the meeting.

Company	Name
Independent Chair	Maxine Frerk
Octopus	Kieron Stopforth*
E.ON	Matt Cullen
Centrica	Helen Stack
Energy UK	Callum Chalmers
Smarter Grid Solutions	Robert MacDonald (alternate)
The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA)	Frank Gordon*
The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE)	Caroline Sejer Damgaard
Everoze Partners	Nithin Rajavelu
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Peter Couch
Siemens Energy	Vijay Shinde
Piclo	Gemma Stanley
Elexon	Hussein Osman
Regen	Olly Frankland*
Community Energy England	Philip Coventry
Electralink	Emma Carr*
Energy Systems Catapult	Greg Johnston*
Imperial College London	Goran Strbac

Welsh Government	Ron Loveland
Citizens Advice	Caroline Farquhar
National Grid ESO (NG ESO)	Andy Wainwright*
National Grid ESO (NG ESO)	Andy Rice*
National Grid ESO (NG ESO)	Stuart Fowler*
National Grid Electricity Distribution (NG ED)	Matt Watson*
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Sotiris Georgiopoulos
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Odilia Bertetti*
Northern Powergrid (NPg)	Laura Brown
Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)	Wendy Mantle
Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN)	Guy Shapland*
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Avi Aithal
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	David Boyer*
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Reece Breen Begadon
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Alex Williams
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Helen Jarva

Recent Industry Developments and ON impact

Maxine Frerk (Challenge Group Chair) invited the Group to flag any industry developments that ON should be aware of. Industry developments flagged will be discussed with ON Steering Group and any subsequent actions reported to the Challenge Group in the next meeting.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group flagged open Ofgem CFI on the Futue of Distributed Flexibility and consultation on Local Energy Institutions and Governance had been published on the morning of this meeting. The Challenge Group noted that the documents underrepresent ON achivements and noted support for continued work through the programme. The Challenge Group will meet independently to discuss their view further.	The two industry developments and Challenge Group support were noted. ON will continue business as usual until any policy reforms are issued.

Open Networks 2023 Scope

Avi Aithal (Head of ON) shared a high-level view of ON scope in 2023, and sought Challenge Group views on the 2023 launch document. It was highlighted that Challenge Group will be approached to participate in need-based focus groups for key technical working groups, or requested to recommend representatives from their industry sector.

Feedback	Response
The Group noted that the document is easy to consume and welcomed the inclusion of measurable success criteria.	Feedback noted.
Challenge Group requested a clarification on the goal of aligning 80% of DSO flexibility products.	A 20% buffer in the goal allows space for ongoing innovation in the flexibility space, as well as nuances and trials that may apply to specific customers or areas.
Challenge Group enquired whether the outcomes committed to in the document align with DSO incentives.	Some outcomes align with DSO incentives, and others are covered as part of compliance with ON outcomes.
The Group enquired how Community Energy organisations will be engaged beyond the Challenge Group.	ON will host two Community Energy Forums in 2023 in collaboration with Regen. Community Energy England will be engaged as part of this. Challenge Group are seen as a representative of the wider industry.

Standard Agreement

Andy Rice (NG ESO) & Wendy Mantle (SPEN) (Technical working group Co-Leads) shared 2022 work on service based schedules in the Standard Agreement and the group's 2023 focus, including development of Standard Agreement Ver 3.0.

Feedback	Response
The Group noted the importance of aligned implementation across network companies.	Measure of success for this work will be the aligned implementation of the Agreement across network companies. This is expected to ease operations of providers and networks.
Capacity to deliver a service can change closer to delivery time where services have been procured long in advance. Providers may find it helpful to have more clarity on when liabilities for service failure kick in.	Feedback noted.

Primacy Rules

Matt Watson (NG ED) & Stuart Fowler (NG ESO) (Technical working group Co-Leads) shared updates on Increment 1 and 2 ESO – DSO Primacy Rules currently in development, including TCM vs DSO service conflicts, and STOR vs ANM service conflicts.

Feedback	Response
The Primacy Rules working group should keep the Ofgem CFI on Distributed Flexibility in mind in case this has implications for Primacy.	Feedback noted.
The Group enquired how changes in ANM curtailment will impact Primacy Rules.	The scale of volume under ANM is likely to change. Primacy Rules cost-benefit analysis has looked at five potential scenarios. Increment 1 Rules consider the cost of additional curtailment.
The Group enquired whether setting locational limits to services to minimise grid impact is taken into account.	Locational limits are taken into account where DSOs ask providers in certain areas to become unavailable.
The Group noted speed of deployment as a priority.	Feedback noted.
The Group enquired about the priority of outcome in regards to impact on consumers, speed of imlplementation, or any other priority.	Primacy Rules aim to achieve the lowest regret, best overall system outcome, taking fairness and transparency into account. A number of criteria has been employed to prioritise rule development of individual use cases.

Implementation of DER visibility

Odilia Bertetti (UKPN, Technical working group Lead) shared recommendations for DER information sharing made in 2022, and the focus on harmonising DER information sharing in 2023.

Feedback	Response
The Challenge Group noted that the topic requires in-depth engagement from stakeholders who have particular expertise in this area.	ENA ON Team will reach out to interested Challenge Group members to engage them in a focused work shop.

Flexibility Products

Laura Brown (NPg) & Guy Shapland (SPEN-D) Technical working group Co-Leads) shared plans to standardise four flexibility products across network companies.

Feedback	Response
The Group noted that: • Separate product definitions should be created where there are large differences,	Feedback noted.

however, this should be balanced with not creating too many individual products. • A set of standard products will allow providers to more easily set up operational systems for engaging wiith different products and providers. • Community Energy organisations are still in the process of defining how they will participate as providers. It is likely that additional feedback on how product specifications affect them will emerge later.	

Agreeing next Challenge Group agenda

Avi Aithal (Head of ON) shared intentions to present on Increment 2 Primacy Rules, development of a common API specification for dispatch systems interoperability, proposal for standardising pre-qualification, the settlement process, and a framework for measuring ON success in the next Challenge Group meeting on 4th May.

Feedback	Response
Challenge Group aeged with the agenda, and noted that written updates on areas presented on as part of the current meeting would be welcome.	Updates on feedback are available through the year in the Challenge and Feedback Log.
The Group would like an update on ENA's response to Ofgem CFI on the Futue of Distributed Flexibility and consultation on Local Energy Institutions and Governance.	ENA are developing their consultation responses and will give an update as part of the Challenge and Feedback Log in the next meeting.

Recent and upcoming ENA events

Helen Jarva (ON Junior Project Manager) shared an update on recent and upcoming ENA stakeholder engagement activities, including the quarterly ON Insights Forum and ENA's annual Safety, Health and Environment (SHE) Management Conference.

AOB

Maxine Frerk (Challenge Group Chair) opened the floor for any other business. The Challenge Group requested an update on opportunities for stakeholder engagement across other ENA groups outside of Open Networks. Discussions on this are ongoing within ENA and an update will be provided at the earliest opportunity.