Open Networks Challenge Group Meeting Minutes

The first Open Networks (ON) Challenge Group meeting of 2022 took place over MS Teams on 24 February 2022. The agenda and presentation materials can be found on the ENA website. As this was the first time that this group convened, the session focused on setting the scene, agreeing on ways of working and discussing areas of interest to the group for engagement through the year.

The sections below capture feedback that was shared during the session. Alongside this, a Challenge Log has also been updated to capture key areas for Open Networks to consider and address.

Welcome and Apologies

Maxine Frerk (Independent Chair) welcomed all to the group and introductions were made.

The session was attended by those in green below.

Company	Name
Independent Chair	Maxine Frerk
Octopus	Kieron Stopforth
E.ON	Matt Cullen
Centrica	Helen Stack
Energy UK	Charles Wood
Zemo Partnership	Jonathan Murray
The Association for Renewable Energy and Clean Technology (REA)	Frank Gordon
The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE)	Caroline Sejer Damgaard
The Association for Decentralised Energy (ADE)	Sarah Honan (alternate for Caroline Sejer Damgaard)
Everoze Partners	Nithin Rajavelu
Origami	David Middleton
Joint Radio Company (JRC)	Peter Couch
Siemens Energy	Vijay Shinde
Piclo	Gemma Stanley
Elexon	Peter Frampton
Regen	Olly Frankland
Community Energy England, Scotland and Wales	Philip Coventry
Electralink	Anthony Bivens

Imperial College London	Goran Strbac
Welsh Government	Prof. Ron Loveland
Citizens Advice	Caroline Farquhar
UK Power Networks (UKPN)	Sotiris Georgiopoulos
Western Power Distribution (WPD)	Ben Godfrey
National Grid ESO	Andy Wainwright
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Farina Farrier
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Avi Aithal
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Emily Jones
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Helen Jarva
Energy Networks Association (ENA)	Connor Innes

2022 Overview

Farina Farrier (Head of ON, ENA) presented a summary of Open Networks and the objectives of the programme in 2022, followed by Sotiris Georgiopoulos (ON Steering Group Chair, UKPN) who presented an overview of the 2022 areas of work.

Feedback	Response
Members of the Challenge Group are interested in a number of areas beyond the flexibility workstream (such as connections) as these are important topics and they enable the provision of flexibility.	Agreed. ENA will send a request out to the Challenge Group members to understand their areas of interest. Based on this, ENA will bring a proposal for discussion to the next meeting on 5th May. It was noted that whilst we will try our best to accommodate all topics, we may be limited by time available on the agenda and there may be a need for the Challenge Group to agree areas of priority.

Terms of Reference (ToR)

Maxine Frerk summarised key points from the Challenge Group Terms of Reference and invited feedback from the group on ways of working.

Maxine also discussed that following the closing date of the call for participation to join this group last year, we are still receiving several requests from stakeholders to join the Challenge Group to represent categories that already have representatives. Maxine proposed to the group that we formalise the process for reviewing any

new applications in the Terms of Reference and proposed 6-monthly reviews of membership in 2022, followed by annual reviews the year after. There were no objections from the group to this approach.

As part of the discussions, ENA confirmed that the intention remains to be transparent and to publish the materials, minutes, and the Challenge Log on the ENA website. As Ofgem and BEIS are represented on the Open Networks Steering Group, they will be made aware of the feedback from the Challenge Group. As the Chair of this forum, Maxine attends the Steering Group to represent the views of this forum.

Feedback	Response
Update Terms of Reference to: • Recognise areas of interest extend beyond the flexibility workstream (as per discussion above) • Update stakeholder groups and the number of seats. Reference membership list. • Clarify process for review of new applications – i.e., 6-monthly reviews in 2022 followed by annual reviews in 2023.	ENA will update the Terms of Reference to reflect these changes.
Additional suggestions for the Challenge Group, ENA and Maxine to consider through the year: • Annual review summarising the Challenge Group's view on Open Networks following their engagement with the programme through the year. This could be captured in a short one-page summary. • Consider alone-time for the Challenge Group and chair.	Maxine and ENA will reflect on this and consider the best approach to this.

2022 Work plan & Areas for Challenge Group input

Ben Godfrey (Chair of ON Flexibility Workstream, WPD) and Andy Wainwright (ON ESO Lead, NG ESO) presented an overview of the objectives of the Flexibility workstream followed by summaries of the specific 2022 flexibility products.

It was recognised by the group that there has been substantial stakeholder and consultation to inform the work plan and priorities that have been set for 2022. The aim of this session was to get feedback from the Challenge

Group to better understand areas of interest to them and how they would like to engage and provide input to shape future sessions.

Feedback	Response
Work on settlement should take account of peer-to-peer trading.	Open Networks will feed this back to the product team to take this into account in their ongoing work.
As part of the work on Carbon Reporting, Open Networks should consider how it will facilitate the reporting of DNO energy efficiency measures. As part of incorporating this, there will also be a need to link in with the newly formed BEIS Reduced Electricity Demand incentive (REDi) Working Group that has recently kicked off to design energy efficiency policy.	Open Networks is in discussion with Ofgem on how energy efficiency is incorporated into this work. We will discuss this within the product team to consider how we could incorporate this into the scope. Open Networks technical lead Avi Aithal currently sits in the REDi Working Group and will feedback learnings from the Working Group to Open Networks.