

NESO Technology Advisory Council

TAC-22

Date: 06/03/2026 **Location:** Virtual
Start: 09:00 **End:** 12:30

All material from the meeting can be found on the NESO Technology Advisory Council website:
<https://www.neso.energy/about/our-people/nesos-stakeholder-groups/neso-technology-advisory-council-tac>

Participants

Attendee	Attend/Regrets	Attendee	Attend/Regrets
Eric Brown (Chair)	Attend	Anthony Riding	Regrets
Cameron Shade (Facilitator) (CS)	Attend	Andy Hadland	Regrets
Shubhi Rajnish (SR)	Regrets	Alex Waslin	Attend
Joseph Stepney (JS)	Attend	Chris Dent	Attend
Alastair Martin	Attend	Simon Pearson	Attend
James Houlton	Attend	Nick Huntbatch	Attend
Kate Garth	Attend	Gareth Hislop	Regrets
Naomi Baker	Attend	Alvaro Sanchez-Miralles	Attend
Carolina Tortora	Regrets	Fred Drewitt	Regrets
Teodora Kaneva	Regrets	Melissa Stark	Attend

For specific Agenda Items

Mayank Jha Darren Holyoake

Agenda

#	Topic	
1.	Welcome & Apologies	Eric Brown
2.	Minutes of last meeting and matters arising	Eric Brown
3.	Feedback from the last meeting	Cameron Shade
4.	RIO2 Journey	Joe Stepney
5.	Digital Strategy	Mayank Jha
6.	Connections and Digital	Darren Holyoake
7.	Open Balancing Platform Update	Mayank Jha
8.	Subgroups update	Cameron Shade
9.	Next meeting	Eric Brown
10.	AOB	Eric Brown

Decisions and Recommendations

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1.	<p>Welcome & Apologies</p> <p>The chair welcomed all and started the meeting after confirming there were no potential conflicts of interest and acknowledging received apologies.</p>
2.	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising</p> <p>There were no further comments on the minutes from the last meeting. All outstanding actions were discussed and updated.</p>
3.	<p>Feedback from the last meeting</p> <p>Feedback received from the previous meeting was recapped, highlighting actions taken since that meeting. There was a brief discussion on sector digitalisation and including the open letter from Ofgem and emerging digital vision from DESNZ to the list of future topics.</p>
4.	<p>RIO2 Journey</p> <p>NESO reflected on the digital transformation during the RIO-2 period, highlighting system modernisation, lessons learned, KPI improvements, innovation projects and the challenges of legacy migration while looking for feedback and points to focus on from the TAC members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NESO asked TAC to reflect on the RIO2 journey and discuss anything that they believe should be highlighted across that time period. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacing the balancing system was mentioned as a big journey for any system operator. Highlighting how big the challenge is may be a surprise to people including KPI's such as the number and types of units and the skip rate metrics. ○ Crowdflex was another suggestion as a successful innovation. ○ TAC suggested considering metrics outside of balancing such as capturing entire system costs. ○ TAC asked to mention DSI and drive adoption and education of it.

- TAC mentioned NESO have made substantial change during RII02 and questioned whether those learnings have been captured and made available to others to avoid relearning the hard lessons.
- TAC suggested highlighting the difficulty of moving from legacy to new, the work NESO does is not like a startup, the effort involved building from legacy should be mentioned. On top of that there is the separation from National Grid and business process change.

5. Digital Strategy

NESO's digital strategy was presented proposing a new format of 'Digital Shifts' and discussing the distinction between internal strategy and external sector leadership.

- TAC suggested changing the initial slides to stop being sequential as NESO are doing a lot in parallel and this is misleading.
- TAC recognised how difficult it can be to ask people in complex changing environments what they want to achieve in 5 years, it could be they like it how it is but the real test is when you do those small changes and in 6 months suggest removing them, what reaction do you receive.
- There was a conversation about the strategy being focused on NESO internally rather than the sector. This was clarified as something outside of the discussion for today, Sector Digitalisation Strategy has a large focus for NESO the intention was to talk about NESO digitalisation in isolation for today's topic.
- TAC queried how this was related to the NESO digital charters.
- TAC encouraged NESO to design strategies that are flexible and open to innovative practices from other markets, such as batch processing and advanced modelling and to ensure strong DNO/DSO integration.
- TAC discussed the importance of ecosystem thinking, coordination with DSO and FMAR and the need for NESO to assert leadership in data architecture and integration to avoid duplication and ensure interoperability.

6. Connections and Digital

A comprehensive overview of the Connections Reform programme was presented, detailing the digital and data challenges, the implementation of the new pipeline, cross-industry collaboration and the delivery of a fully digital, auditable process.

- TAC asked about the relationship between TCSNP and connections.
 - NESO took this into account in the design phase and tracked it via dependencies including others such as CfD via internal and external communication.
- TAC asked how many of the 1000 checks that were performed was based on what NESO have always done and were there learnings that could be used?
 - The answer was yes, for the next window learnings have been gathered which will be optimised based on this experience.
- TAC questioned how NESO was utilising technology across the Connections solution.
- The one team mantra was supported by TAC as a hugely important point suggesting investigation in to how this could be adopted on sector wide challenges.
- TAC commented on the press regarding connections reform and asked how the connections for demand is being included.
 - NESO responded that demand is already part of the process with TO's being worked with more closely removing spreadsheets and emails and digitising the processes.

7. Open Balancing Platform

Updates were provided on OBPs deployment, resilience improvements, migration of ancillary services and user experience enhancements.

- There was a discussion on resilience and communications challenges especially as the system scales to more decentralised operators, the need for industry-wide policy intervention and risk articulation.
- TAC suggested learning from telecommunications control rooms, visiting and witnessing how sophisticated they are for disaster planning, how responsive they can be and the level of information they have available.

8. Subgroups Update

Updates were given on the digital and data strategy subgroup and a short discussion was held on the control room of the future subgroup.

- There was a short discussion on the multiple control room of the future initiatives at NESO and how they are integrated.
- TAC raised that NESO, DSO's and Markets need to work together in a collaborative way.

9. Next meeting

- 5th June 2026

10. AOB

- Suggestion for NESO to reach out to SSE on the Energy network Centre of Excellence on AI, an action was taken to pass on the details.
- An update was provided on Innovation in the whole systems space with investigation continuing.
- Issues with the chat function was mentioned with an action taken to resolve.
- Update on CS accepting new role at NESO and the search for a replacement Technical Secretary.

Action Item Log

ID	Description	Owner	Due	Status	Comments
A06-	Work with SP and FD to organise a session with another sector.	Chair-	06/03/2026	Closed	With SR for response
A25	Check if there is anything shareable between NESO and DESNZ head of data regarding the volume of data initiatives and concerns about duplication of effort	SR	06/03/2026	Closed	SR to check if this is shareable
A27	Setup a discussion on DNO's lack of visibility on voltage information and acting on 'what if' scenarios	JS	06/03/2026	Closed	JS to provide update
A28	Confirm viability and potential implementation timescales for secure SharePoint based Extranet for TAG usage.	JS	06/03/2026	Closed	JS to provide update
A30	Organise a call with Chair, SR and CT on Innovation initiatives in the sector.	CS	05/06/2026	In Progress	

A31	Feedback any RII02 highlights NESO should ensure they cover.	All	05/06/2026	New
A32	Pass on information to SR as CT DOA on Energy Network Centre of Excellence on AI	JS	05/06/2026	New
A33	Investigate and resolve chat functionality issues on teams	JS	05/06/2026	New