

Consultation

On the Revised Delivery Plan for Continuation of Data Services (DSP)

Date: 09/11/2023

Classification: DCC Public

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1. Executive Summary

The Data Systems Provider and other services delivered under the data services contract sit right at the heart of the Smart Metering infrastructure. It provides data services that connect DCC Users, (network operators, energy suppliers and others) to devices at their consumers' premises. This flow of messages between consumer premises and DCC users enables critical functions to take place such as prepayment meter top-up, and allows for the collection of data needed in energy supplier billing/settlement or for other industry-wide innovative purposes.

The DSP's architecture and service contract were originally procured and negotiated by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), now the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero - abbreviated to DESNZ (or 'the Department') throughout this document, during the initiation of the Smart Metering Programme between 2009 and 2013. The initial contract term was for 8 years from September 2013 to October 2021 and continues for a 3-year extension period up to October 2024.

DCC previously consulted on our plan for DSP delivery in 2021; since then we have undertaken significant engagement with our customers, engaged with the market that will ultimately supply these services, and as a result, have an increased understanding of what the future DSP may look like, and greater alignment of the Customer needs of that service. This has supported our regulated business case submission to DESNZ for the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) and Outline Business Case (OBC) stages and our upcoming Final Business Case (FBC) submission now planned for September 2024. This is in advance of a full competitive contract award for the next DSP.

We are now consulting on our plan with stakeholders to support that these services are continued in a way that minimises risk to continuity of the service and the security of smart metering and doing so in an economic and efficient manner.

The key driver for the next stage of the Programme is to enable a timely and robust contract award in October 2024. There is a well-defined plan to achieve this. High level milestones are provided for the further delivery phases but will be subject to change until we award a contract to successful future Service Provider(s); until that point, we cannot fully describe the path from contract award to programme close down. To reflect this, we have included a number of control points within our plan where we will engage with stakeholders on greater certainty and granularity for the next stage of the plan.

This consultation focuses on delivery of the core DSP services. We also include a description of the supporting Programmes and sub-Programmes that will deliver DSP System Integration and continuation of the DCC Service Management System, which are also provided for under the existing data services contract. For clarity, the Programmes will be referred to throughout this document as:

- **DSP Programme** – Data Systems Programme. The main programme that will deliver the replacement DSP data systems service.
- **FSM Programme** – Future Service Management. The programme that will deliver the replacement DCC Service Management System (DSMS).
- **DSP DBT SI Sub-Programme** – Systems Integration Programme. The Programme that will appoint a Systems Integrator (SI) for DSP DBT, with the option to extend services to include DSP Enduring System and Service Integrator activities if required.

Within this document we explain our plan for delivery, how this plan will interact with other large-scale change, and describe our view of underlying risks, assumptions and dependencies that support the plan. Plan milestones are referenced as MS##, throughout this document, in reference to the Appendix C milestone table. We also provide an overview of our ongoing plan for Customer engagement.

On 24 July 2023 DCC was directed by the Secretary of State to produce a new implementation plan for continuity in the provision of data services with respect to Smart Metering Systems pursuant to condition 13B.2 of the DCC Licence and this document is our consultation on that plan. **The consultation closes on 15 December 2023.**

Next Steps

Following the evaluation and careful consideration of responses to the consultation questions, the milestones presented within this document will be provided to the DESNZ for approval and, if approved, will be submitted to the Implementation Managers Forum (IMF) for inclusion in the Smart Metering Joint Industry Plan (JIP). DCC will be monitored against delivery of these milestones.

A summary of key milestones in the plan is set out in the table below.

Milestone	Previous Date	Proposed Date
Data Systems Programme – RFP Issued	03 Apr 2023	06 Nov 2023
DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Systems Integrator in place	30 Aug 2023	30 Aug 2024
FSM –Award Contract	N/A	02 Sep 2024
Data Systems Programme – Contract Award	14 Dec 2023	31 Oct 2024
FSM - Go Live	N/A	25 Oct 2025
Data Systems Programme – User Testing Complete	28 Feb 2025	16 Sep 2026
Data Systems Programme – Go Live	28 Mar 2025	30 Oct 2026
DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Extend Enduring SI Decision	N/A	02 Nov 2026
Data Systems Programme – Transition Complete	30 Sep 2025	30 Oct 2027

Selected milestones from the proposed plans (the full set of milestones is included in Appendix C)

We set out our plans throughout this document, with the Plan On A Page (POAP) in Appendix A and our milestone table in Appendix C.

Question 1

Is there anything further that you would like us to consider within our planning activities? Please provide any details.

Question 2

Do you agree with the proposed revised LC13B plan? Are there any milestones that you consider should be included that are not? Please provide a rationale for your views.

2. Introduction and Context

2.1. The DSP Programme

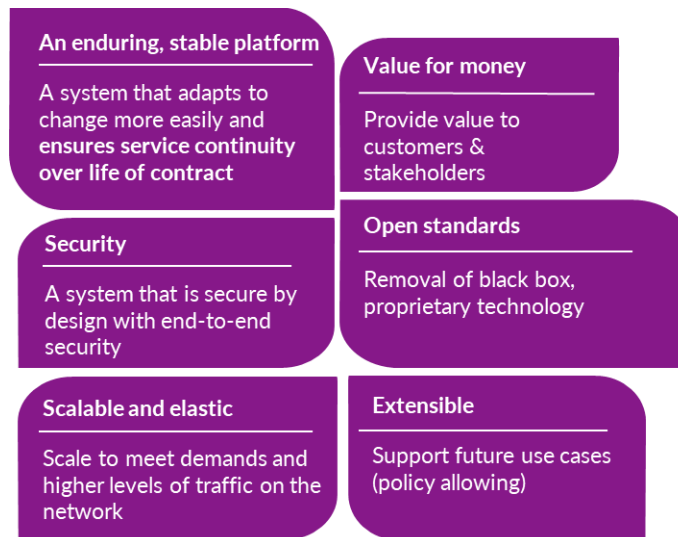
1. The DSP sits right at the heart of the broader Smart Meter Implementation Programme (SMIP), providing data services that connect energy suppliers to devices at their consumers' premises. In simple terms, the DSP Data System is a central facility that controls the flow of messages to and from smart metering equipment, with service user organisations (e.g. energy suppliers, network operators), and other Users) communicating via these central DSP facilities. DCC has a single hub contract with a data services provider who operates these central facilities.
2. DCC is responsible for the ongoing provision of these services and has a general objective in its licence requiring efficient, economical, co-ordinated and secure service provision.
3. The initial contract term with CGI (the incumbent provider) was for 8 years, from September 2013 to October 2021, with option for an additional 3-year extension to October 2024. DCC signed the final negotiated contract in September 2013 shortly after the DCC Licence was awarded and has subsequently managed the delivery by CGI to build and establish the operational DSP service. In Summer 2021 DCC triggered the three extended years available through the current contract (to October 2024) and negotiated an additional potential year to October 2025 available from a contractual perspective, subject to regulatory approvals.
4. There are two separate Programmes and a sub-programme that will ensure continuity in the provision of data services, these are the Data System Programme, the System Integration Programme (For DSP DBT) and DSMS Programme (renamed the Future Service Management Programme). By separating these distinct and separate services into separate workstreams, DCC is better able to optimise delivery of these different services.
5. Whilst this consultation largely focusses on delivery of the core services, DCC provides a description of the SI and FSM Programmes within Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of this document and separate Programme milestones within Appendix C.
6. All Programme procurement is governed and controlled by DCC's Change Delivery Methodology (CDM) process which sets out a six-stage process to ensure change is delivered across DCC in a consistent and controlled way and does so in a manner that is compliant with DCC regulations.
7. The CDM provides a defined method of delivering end-to-end change within the DCC. It defines a repeatable staged approach, standards, and governance required to deliver change for our customers and internally, in a flexible, but controlled and auditable manner. It ensures that the right deliverables are produced at the right time and with the right level of stakeholder input and approval to help deliver targeted outcomes within the planned time, quality, and budget parameters.

2.2. Drivers for Change and Delivery Approach

8. In securing the ongoing provision, DCC is seeking to transform the DSP and invest in an enduring platform that is secure, scalable, extensible, and elastic to meet future demands and fulfil DCC's licence obligations. The programme's goals are clear, and fully aligned with DCC's stated priorities.
9. The vision for the DSP is driven by:
 - The need for a stable and secure service over the lifetime of the contract(s)
 - Engagement with customers and the identified Business Needs
 - Market engagement to understand the available technology options
 - Identifying how the solution needs to evolve to address current and future Business Needs

10. This vision is summarised within Figure 1 and encompasses the elements that need to be delivered to ensure an enduring platform for the SMIP that meets today's needs, ensures service continuity, and supports future industry requirements.

11. **Figure 1: Vision for the DSP**



2.3. HM Treasury Green Book Business Case Approach

12. Since the introduction of LC16.6A-C, establishing the agreed practice of HMT Green Book business cases for projects/programmes over £10m, DCC has developed a number of complex business cases including DSP. The business case process is an active component in DCC decision making that provides a clear framework within which investment and operational options are appraised in a clear, consistent way, resulting in a robust evidence-based case for change. It ensures that the evidence and rationale for DCC decisions are well documented, and it is integrated with DCC's 'gated' programme management approach and governance arrangements. The DSP business case has progressed through the Strategic Outline Case Stage and an Outline Business Case is presently being discussed between DESNZ and DCC.
13. **Strategic Outline Case (SOC).** The SOC set out the business needs for the future DSP, the core drivers for change, the options for how these would be delivered, and identifies the preferred way forward for the DSP. A redacted version of the DSP SOC was shared with customers in October 2022. DCC sought approval to move to the next stage of procurement for the Data Service Provider (DSP) Data Systems Programme, specifically, to move to Outline Business Cases (OBC) stage, supported by market engagement and a Request for Information (RFI) to prepare for a future procurement in line with decisions made at OBC stage.
14. **Overview of the Outline Business Case (OBC).** DCC needs to transform the DSP and invest in an enduring platform that is secure, scalable, extensible, and elastic to meet future demands and fulfil DCC's licence obligations. The programme's goals are clear, and fully aligned with the DCC's stated priorities. The preferred approach for the DSP is to deliver the new target architecture through a competitive procurement approach. This delivers benefits to customers through:
- Delivering target architecture and meeting customer needs
 - Lowest long-run cost to operate and change
 - Compliant procurement approach through RFP
15. **DSP SOC/OBC Spending Objectives.** Three objectives, or drivers for change, were identified and agreed for the DSP programme at SOC stage, which are set out below:

- Driver 1 - Complete service transition: “The primary driver for the DSP Data Systems programme is to ensure that the DCC has completed the arrangements for continuation of services within appropriate timeframes that account for current contract end dates (October 2025 – provided the one-year contract extension is activated), with minimal disruption to the provision of those services for users.”
- Driver 2 – No degradation of service: “The continued services should have no less capability than provided by the current service, or as defined within the SEC and other relevant documents, whichever is greater. The DCC will consider options to mitigate service failure in the event of commercial failure of the Service Provider or any element of the Service Provider’s sub-supply chain where this would mean the DCC is unable to deliver its licence obligation in regard to service continuity.”
- Driver 3 – Service improvements: “Where practical, cost effective, and timely the DCC should seek to implement improvements to the new service (either the current service, or as defined in the SEC, whichever is greater) that will bring a greater level of capability, improve resilience, achieve greater value for money than the current service and reduce cycle time for in-life change. Meeting these aims must provide no undue detriment to the achievement of driver 1 or driver 2.”

16. As the smart meter programme continues, the demand and pressure on the existing DSP infrastructure and network will intensify. In light of this DCC and its customers are seeking a solution that offers flexibility to meet changing customer needs and to enable continued provision of the service as part of the licence requirement.
17. **Post OBC, Procurement and the Full Business Case.** Subsequent to completion of the OBC process, DCC will progress with the procurement of the future DSP. In preparation for this, the programme is developing the DSP procurement requirements and has embarked on ‘market warming’ to generate interest and promote competition in the procurement process. The outputs and outcomes of the procurement process will be captured in the Full Business Case through which a formal non-objection will be sought from the Secretary of State prior to contract award and contract signature.
18. The HM Treasury Green Book Business Case Approach is an activity that complements and adds additional rigour to the core DCC CDM process.

2.4. Replanning and the Secretary of State’s Direction for a new plan for continuity in the provision of Data Services

19. On 24 July 2023, DCC was Directed in accordance with Condition 13B.10 of the DCC Licence to produce a new plan for continuity in the provision of the data services with respect to Smart Metering Systems. The Direction sets out that the plan must meet requirements of the initial DSP LC13B direction of 29 January 2021 and show the critical path to delivery of this programme.
20. The 29 January 2021 and 24 July 2023 Directions have been included as Appendix D and E respectively within this document.
21. Accordingly, DCC has developed a new Plan that meets the requirements of this 24 July Direction, and this document forms our consultation with the SEC Panel and all SEC Parties on that plan in accordance with the requirements of Condition 13B.3 of the DCC Licence.
22. This document is structured as follows:
 - **Section 3** of this document describes the headline changes to our Plan activities and deliverables since the earlier 2021 DSP Consultation. We also describe the related data services programmes here

- **Section 4** of this document sets out the Plan activities and deliverables to contract award, including descriptions of different phases and timelines
- **Section 5** of this document sets out the Plan activities and deliverables post contract award, including descriptions of different phases and timelines
- **Section 6** considers the delivery of the Plan against DCC's other deliverables over the plan lifetime, as well as in the context of broader industry change
- **Section 7** considers the dependencies and assumptions which must be met in order to deliver and the dates by which they can be met
- **Section 8** sets out the risks and opportunities associated with the Plan, including dependencies identified in Section 5, and how DCC will mitigate and manage these
- **Section 9** focuses on DCC's customers and their engagement during the delivery of this plan, as well as DCC's perspective on the key milestones and phases that will impact them over the lifetime of the programme

2.5. Timetable for consulting on and submitting the New Plan

23. The Department have requested that the Plan is submitted to them by no later than 8th of December 2023. DCC is releasing this consultation a few weeks later than initially planned. As a result, we will no longer be able to meet the 8th of December date within the direction. We will seek to conclude on this consultation with the Department as soon as possible, but no later than the 26th of January, accompanied by publication of our Consultation Conclusions document. In order to maximise stakeholder engagement, we will be developing the plan to the below timeline.
24. We are planning to hold a webinar on this consultation to allow customers to ask questions on the topics we cover. Please email customerengagement@smartdcc.co.uk if you wish to attend.

Date	Activity
9 November 2023	Consultation Opens
01 December 2023	Customer Webinar
15 December 2023	Consultation Closes
26 January 2024	Conclusions submitted to the Department along with final LC13B Programme Plan

3. Headline Changes and Supporting Programmes

3.1. Headlines Changes

25. DCC previously consulted on DSP delivery plans in September 2021¹, concluding our findings in February 2022². This was in advance of submitting our Programme Business cases: SOC and OBC. These were submitted to DESNZ in June 2022 and June 2023 respectively and we have expanded further on our approach to these in Section 2.3.
26. During 2022 and 2023 DCC has undertaken significant engagement with its stakeholders including direct customer engagement sessions and representation at numerous SEC Committees to discuss and take feedback on targeted topics. We believe this engagement has given DCC a good understanding and wide alignment on the Business Needs of our customers, a key driver for the procurement of the next DSP.
27. Key changes within the DSP Programme plan:
- 1) Previously DCC included the option of overlapping activities and milestone dates during the procurement, build & test, and transition phases of the programme, which could be delivered independently within separate delivery workstreams. These workstreams were:
 - 1. Commodity Capabilities. These are off-the-shelf products which are not specific to SMIP standards and include capabilities, such as connectivity, hosting and storage
 - 2. Non SMIP Specific Capabilities. This includes the underlying technologies that support the platform, such as database technology
 - 3. SMIP Specific Capabilities. This includes capabilities which deliver the requirements set out in the SEC such as security applications, message request processing, DUIS (DCC User Interface Specification), GBCS (GB Companion Specification) and anomaly detection
 - 2) DCC has now refocussed these procurement workstreams into three separate Lots and eight separate Statements of Work (SoW) that we detail in Section 4.2. These will now be released as part of a single RFP. The breakdown of our Statements of Work are similar to the previous workstreams and alignment is explained within Section 4.2. The key difference is that we are no longer intending to implement overlapping procurement periods; contract award/go live dates now align within a single DSP RFP rather than optionally being phased (although post contract award the Service Provider(s) may phase the implementation). Our reasoning for this change of approach is that following market engagement, the majority of work will now be delivered by a single Service Provider ensuring that the bespoke core elements are delivered under the same contract, reducing the risk or integration as these elements will be designed, built and integrated by a single Service Provider. Both the overall complexity / transition risk to the system and wider industry is reduced by aligning key appointment dates for these services by reducing the complexity of transition states and planning / delivery dependencies. In the case of Lot 3 Network Connectivity it was noted that it would be of greater benefit to have the supply chain competing at the same time, assessing the same information and the same outputs.
 - 3) We proposed concluding consultation on scope of regulatory change for the DSP Programme in September 2022. This is now planned for November 2024. This later date reflects movement of the wider programme timelines and that from a SEC perspective, any significant changes to the code will be driven by the Service Provider appointed, rather than the Programme Business Needs and requirements. We explain this further within Section 5.3.

¹ <https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/consultations/consultation-on-the-delivery-plan-for-network-evolution-data-services-provider-1/>

² <https://www.smartdcc.co.uk/consultations/consultation-on-the-delivery-plan-for-network-evolution-data-services-provider-2/>

- 4) Originally, DCC proposed submitting the Programme FBC to BEIS (now DESNZ) in November 2023. As the plan has matured and DCC has engaged with both the market and industry stakeholders, a firm date of September 2024 is now proposed. Assuming receipt of a DESNZ non objection, this will be followed by Contract Award in October 2024 (originally December 2023).
 - 5) Our Programme End date was originally planned for September 2025. Following engagement with the market and using this insight to refine DCC planning, the Programme is now scheduled to complete in October 2027. This is subject to the Service Provider selected to deliver this service. Related plan milestones, such as testing arrangements have also moved to the right to reflect this later completion date. A complete update on replanning of previous DSP milestones is included within Appendix C.
28. System Integration is a key component of the DSP Programme Plan, and the timelines of the DSP Programme and DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme are therefore intrinsically aligned. An assumption has been made that the Programme System Integrator will be in place by August 2024 to support with the wider DSP procurement and development of the Design Build Test phase of the new DSP. This assumption is retained from our 2021 consultation. We discuss this further in Section 3.3.
 29. Procurement of the future DSMS will now be undertaken by a new Programme, the Future Service Management (FSM) Programme. The scope of the FSM includes continuation of services required today, future DSMS services and now additionally includes the option to consider procurement of a new enduring Order Management System (OMS) for the 4G Comms Hub & Network. We discuss this further in Section 3.4.

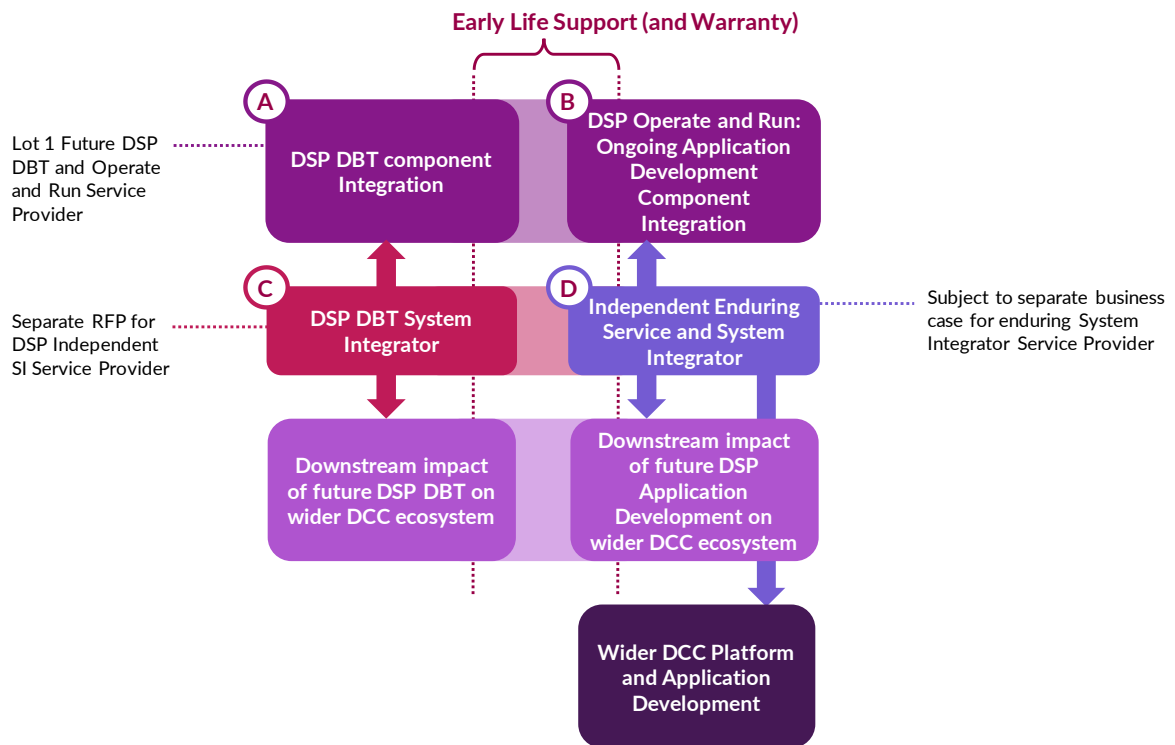
3.2. Extending the existing DSP Contract

30. Current DSP services are due to expire at the end of Oct 2024. DCC are producing an SOC to explore available options for the continuation of DSP current services to facilitate the procurement and DBT of the future DSP service, and the migration of current services to the new solution. This will be followed by production and submission of an OBC.
31. Following conclusion of the OBC, DCC will pursue the option that it considers presents the greatest NPV. Procurement will commence at end of OBC stage. This activity is anticipated to conclude in advance of April 2024, six months before the expiration of the existing contract. An FBC will be submitted to DESNZ for non-objection in advance of contract signature.
32. The incumbent Service Provider has been briefed on all options and the required timelines.
33. DCC commercial are also producing a procurement strategy and negotiation strategy to help secure a value for money outcome from the selected process.
34. We have included a milestone within our plan to have agreed a DSP extension in April 2024 (MS13) and note that in order to do this we will need to have first obtained the necessary regulatory clearances.

3.3. System Integration

35. The System Integrator will provide a means to build quality into the DSP solution through the implementation of an independent, knowledgeable organisation that will assure each submission from organisations both individually to specification and collectively to support integrity of the solution as a whole. We provide a view of the future model for System Integration within Figure 2.

36. **Figure 2: The Future Model for System Integration**



(A) DSP DBT Component Integration – this relates to bringing together the DSP components as part of the Design, Build and Test of the future DSP. Implementation Management of the final Transition to the live Production Service, and System Integration processes to support Production.

(B) DSP Operate and Run – Ongoing Application Development Subsystem Component Integration (CI) will operate as ongoing ‘mini-DBTs’ with the same requirements and approach as (A).

(C) DSP Independent System Integrator for DBT – The SI will support the DSP systems and service integration testing and independent assurance to ensure the DSP and other Service Providers are compliant with the requirements of the Design and Build Plan, the Programme Plan and Testing Plan. Assurance reports will be provided to the DSP Programme and to the DCC Executive Board as required.

(D) Enduring System and Service Integrator (ESSI) – Taking on the enduring SI role for (C) as part of the wider ESSI suite of services. In simple terms the DSP SI (D) will become a subset of the enduring ESSI service.

DSP DBT Component Integration and DSP Operate and Run (A+B)

37. These services will be procured under RFP 1, Lot 1, Statement of Work 4a as described within Section 4.2 of this document. The Component Integrator provider under the Run SoW will have responsibility for DSP Component Integration obligations. They will be responsible for issues and defects that arise during all stages of testing and cross-party triage across DSP service providers

appointed under Lot 1, 2 and 3. DSP Operate and Run, Application Management Services (AMS) covers the maintenance of critical software systems. This includes Component Integration and scheduling of software updates, security patching and system testing across the DSP service providers through DBT.

DSP DBT Independent System Integrator (C)

38. The SI scope for the DSP DBT includes a wider set of services as appropriate to support the delivery of the new contracted solution as required. The DSP DBT SI will include support (as required) on Design Reviews, Requirements Assurance, Verification and Validation Detail, Test Coordination/Management, Defect Resolution and Environments Management. The DBT SI will also assure that the solution is designed and delivered to support future disaggregation.
39. The DSP Systems Integrator (SI) will be procured via an RFP and will have separate business case arrangements, allowing an independent SI to be available. As will be laid out in the relevant business case the procurement of the DSP DBT SI will be for two Statements of Work: the first, smaller SoW is to support DCC as an advisor in the procurement of the future DSP and the second, main SoW to support the DCC in the DBT phase and Early Life Support (ELS) phase. As such, the DSP DBT SI will need to be in place by the later stages of the future DSP procurement.
40. Engaging the market to procure this capability separately will allow DCC to provide greater value for money to our customers as the systems integration market has become mature in its service, methods and technology offerings.
41. The procurement of the DSP DBT SI will be conducted via a separate business case and RFP to the DSP re-procurement. The rationale for this phasing is to have the DSP SI in place as soon as possible, in order to support the DSP re-procurement RFP for Lots 1, 2 and 3. The aim is to have a DSP SI in place by 30 August 2024; however, the very latest it needs to be in place is by the contract award for Lots 1, 2 and 3 in order to support and provide assurance of DBT, migration and ELS for the To-Be DSP.
42. DCC will exercise its right to request that any organisation selected to be the DSP DBT SI, withdraw their bid from the DSP procurement, should the award of the DBT SI be made before the procurement of the DSP has concluded. This is to prevent any conflict of interest in the selection of the DSP partner.
43. DCC's recognises the advantage of appointing an independent DSP DBT SI role, separate from the awarded through the DSP RFP. This is to ensure genuine independence (not "marking their own homework", objectivity in dispute resolution and no vested interest in preventing disaggregation). However, should the appointment of the DSP RFP have concluded then DCC exercise its right to award the same provider to the DSP and role of DSP DBT SI.
44. The detailed scope of the DSP SI for DBT will be shared via a separate business case. At a high level the role will be system integration and co-ordination of successful Service Providers within the broader DCC eco-system (e.g. integration with external systems such as ECOS, CSPs and CSS). They will provide services such as: design assurance, release management, testing, transition planning support and asset management.
45. Scope of the DSP DBT SI will include but is not limited to the following responsibilities:
 - Supporting the creation of the DSP Systems Integration Approach and its maintenance through DBT
 - Ensuring DBT phase activities are completed in accordance with the requirements set out in the DSP Systems Integration Approach; including readiness for integration testing and compliance with any gate entry criteria that are required by the SI or other co-ordination and assurance functions. This would include supporting Live Service Criteria (LSC), namely the criteria DCC must fulfil for DESNZ to deem a system ready to go live

- Complying with directions from the DSP Programme to execute specific activities that are set out in the Programme Plan and any subsidiary plans
 - Complying with assurance activities and reporting requirements that are specified by the assurance functions described in the DSP Systems and Service Integration Plan
 - Providing resources (including people, environments and testing artefacts as defined in the Test Approach) to support integration activities
 - Co-operating with the DSP Programme in a timely manner during test execution, triage and testing issue/defect resolution activities and data cleansing/ data migration activities
 - Complying with the DCC Test Approach Document to facilitate and conduct testing activities as described in the Test Approach Document
 - If required, to extend service and include DSP Enduring System and Service Integrator activities, noting that any such extension decision would be subject to the necessary regulatory governance/oversight
46. The DSP Programme and the DSP DBT SI will work collaboratively to manage the overall Programme Plan for the DBT and handover to any post SI contract.
47. DCC are planning to submit a DSP DBT SI SOC to DESNZ over the coming weeks. DCC's subsequent proposed DSP DBT SI milestones are as follows:
- 1) Strategic Outline Case Submission - All DCC Internal approvals complete. Strategic Outline Case issued to the Department for review by 17 November 2023 (MS02).
 - 2) Outline Business Case Submission - All DCC Internal approvals complete. Outline Business Case issued to the Department for review by 15 December 2023 (MS04).
 - 3) DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Outline Business Case by 09 February 2024 (MS07).
 - 4) RFP issued by 04 March 2024 (MS08).
 - 5) Full Business Case Submission - All DCC Internal approvals complete. Full Business Case issued to the Department for review by 21 June 2024 (MS14).
 - 6) DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Full Business Case by 26 July 2024 (MS16).
 - 7) Contract Award by 31 July 2024 (MS18).
 - 8) DBT Systems Integrator in place by 30 August 2024 (MS21).
48. Additionally, we have added the option to extend service of the DSP DBT SI to include Enduring System and Service Integrator activities. DCC will be able to extend the contract with our appointed DBT SI for a number of years as contingency for the Enduring System and Service Integrator role. The ability to extend will be subject to the necessary regulatory governance/oversight and any such decision will be timed around DSP DBT being complete and based on whether/when we plan to launch a separate Enduring System and Service Integrator procurement.
49. A further milestone has been included for the latest point that DCC will exercise contractual options to extend scope of DBT SI for November 2026 (MS46), subject to a green book process.

Enduring System and Service Integrator

50. The enduring SI is expected to be in place following ELS. Subject to regulatory business case requirements, DCC plan to undertake a parallel activity to procure these System Integration services, post DSP procurement activity has concluded. The decision milestone to extend the DSP

DBT SI provision beyond ELS, will be based upon the award and subsequent mobilisation activity of an enduring SI. This will be a separate discussion with DESNZ, Ofgem and stakeholders.

3.4. DCC Service Management System

51. Continuation of DSMS will be undertaken by the Future Service Management (FSM) Programme. The scope of the FSM programme will be to deliver:
- 1) A replacement for the existing DCC Service Management System (based on the BMC Remedy product and provided through the existing contract with CGI);
 - 2) Relevant changes to the business processes within DCC that will improve the customer service experience;
 - 3) Consideration of a new enduring Order Management System for the 4G Comms Hub & Network capability to support 4G at full scale (to replace the Order Management System going live in November 2024).
52. DCC are planning to engage with customers through the relevant SEC Sub-Committees during November and December 2023.
53. DCC's proposed FSM milestones are as follows:
- 1) Strategic Outline Case Submission - All DCC Internal approvals complete. Strategic Outline Case issued to the Department for review by 22 December 2023 (MS05).
 - 2) DESNZ Feedback received for Strategic Outline Business Case by 26 January 2024 (MS06).
 - 3) Outline Business Case Submission - All DCC Internal approvals complete. Outline Business Case issued to the Department for review by 05 March 2024 (MS09).
 - 4) DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Outline Business Case by 05 April 2024 (MS11).
 - 5) RFP Issued by the 08 April 2024 (MS12).
 - 6) Full Business Case Submission - All DCC Internal approvals complete. Full Business Case issued to the Department for review by 30 July 2024 (MS17).
 - 7) DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Full Business Case by 30 August 2024 (MS20).
 - 8) Contract Award by 02 September 2024 (MS23).
 - 9) Proposed Regulatory Change Consultation concludes by 20 September 2024 (MS26) – Consultation to start in advance of Contract Award once a preferred Service Provider has been selected.
 - 10) Confirmed Regulatory Change Consultation concludes 30 March 2025 (MS34) – Based on the Programme detailed design being complete.
 - 11) Go Live by 25 October 2025 (MS38).
54. Additionally, DCC has included the following control points to support DCC planning and delivery by defining the points at which we will be able to replan with increased certainty.
- 1) Control Point 1 – Post contract award, to allow DCC to refine planning based upon the Service Provider that is appointed. This is forecast for 09 September 2024 (MS24).
 - 2) Control Point 2 – Detailed design complete, to allow DCC to refine planning based upon the detailed design agreed with the Service Provider. This is forecast for 02 December 2024 (MS31).

4. Delivery Plan Activities to Contract Award

55. The activities described within this, and subsequent sections apply to the core DSP Programme. These activities lead up to submission of the DSP FBC in September 2024 (MS25) and Contract Award planned for October 2024 (MS28). Plans relating to delivery of SI and FSM are described within sections 3.3 and 3.4 respectively and contain their own specific milestones.

4.1. Gathering Requirements

56. DCC will create requirements to enable the RFP activity. Requirements will be outcome based to support innovation and invite expertise to deliver a best-in-class solution, within the constraints of our Business Case. Where there are specific constraints or requests as laid out in the SEC, these will be identified, and the appropriate SEC section will be referenced. Furthermore, where requirements can be supported by publicly available design documentation, this will also be referenced.
57. The requirements traceability matrix (RTM) will be the source of requirements during the lifetime of the Programme and will be baselined at RFP issue and version controlled after this. This will be managed by the Business Analysis practice within the programme to ensure the latest version is available to potential Service Providers.

4.2. Approach to Market Engagement and Issue of an RFP

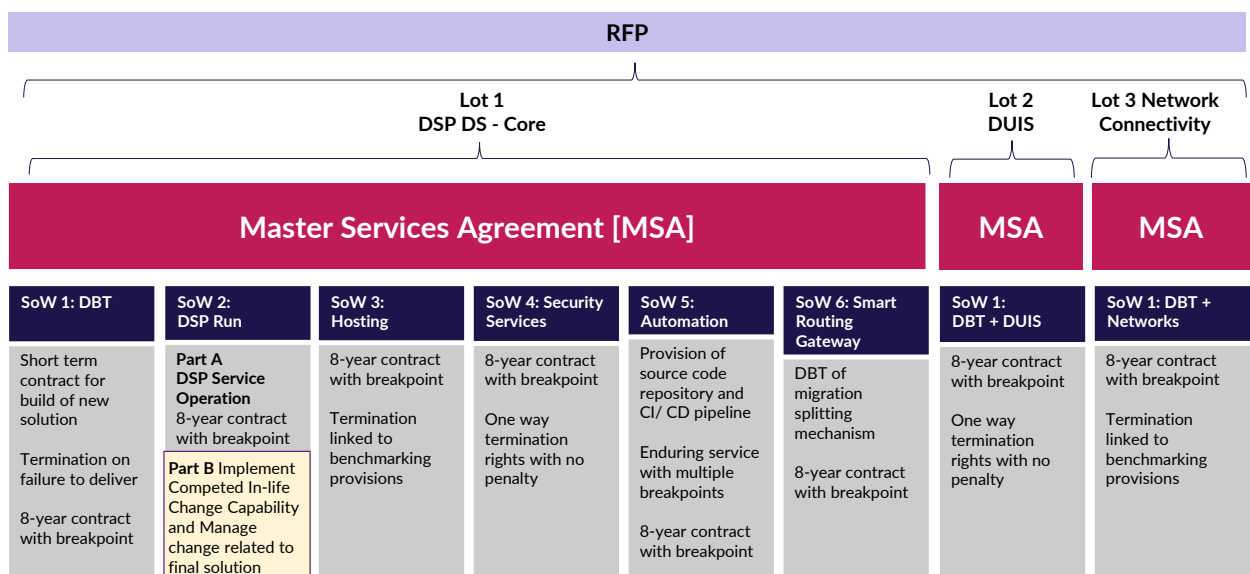
58. It is vital for DCC to proactively engage with organisations that have the capability to provide services required for the next DSP. This engagement has so far provided critical information used in development of the DSP business case and helped shape our strategic approach. Going forwards, further engagement with these organisations is essential to running a robust procurement and securing value for money / a quality service, as required by the DCC Licence when issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP).
59. Previous Market Engagement on behalf of the DSP Programme.
- 1) In March 2022, DCC completed a round of Request For Information (RFI) responses from thirteen potential technology providers, supporting the developing strategy for DCC Target Architecture and informing key sections of our Business Case.
 - 2) In December 2022, DCC issued a Market Engagement Questionnaire (MEQ) for information gathering purposes, to provide market intelligence on the design of the programme and the associated procurement activity. This MEQ requested new information, clarifications and built upon key points captured from the original thirteen technology providers who responded to the earlier RFI. This information was used within the OBC options analysis, particularly to support with option costs, timescales and risk management.
60. Market warming activities in 2023.
- 1) In August 2023, DCC initiated a market warming activity with organisations. This includes organisations that engaged in previous market engagement activity in 2022 and those that have responded to DCC advertisements for the opportunity. At the time of writing, 15 potential providers have either been engaged or are scheduled to be engaged in detailed market warming. The advantages of undertaking this type of activity in advance of issuing a formal RFP include:
 - Increased competition within the market through greater awareness, stimulating thinking and prompting market readiness in advance of RFP. Essentially, reassuring the market that the commercial exercise is a genuine market opportunity where DCC will manage the incumbent relationship and design an unrestrictive RFP for new entrants

- Encouraging potential bidders to consider a variety of approaches
- Allowing potential bidders to develop the relationship with the DSP programme and DCC Exec leadership
- Sharing with them DCC thinking on key principles such as design, potential commercial arrangements and RFP timing
- Creating a platform for engagement and answer any concerns or questions that these organisations may have
- Early identification of potential risks and issues that may arise

61. DCC approach to RFP.

- 1) DCC will undertake a robust, multi-stage, structured methodology to carry out the DSP procurement activity, using recognised procurement processes and tools. The commercial exercise will ensure alignment to the DCC licence obligations and DCC’s Commercial Strategy i.e. to provide the best overall outcome in terms of cost, timeliness and quality. This activity is scheduled to commence in November 2023 (MS01), with RFP issue. Initially, this will comprise of a Standard Selection Questionnaire (SQ) to interested bidders, followed by an Invitation to Tender (ITT) once DESNZ have provided non-objection to the Programme OBC.
- 2) Contracts for the DSP services will be awarded to successful organisations through a robust legal framework, utilising a Master Service Agreement (MSA) that sits above our standard operating policies and service modules for each distinct SoW. This approach brings standardisation to key contractual obligations, rights and remedies but also allows flexibility in how each specific SoW and Service Provider is managed by DCC.
- 3) A lotting approach will be taken to the DSP RFP (Figure 3), including pre-defined bidding rules to provide the correct level of independence of service delivery where appropriate and introducing additional competition where it is likely to bring the most benefit at a future, appropriate time where technical disaggregation is feasible. These DSP lots include several SoWs, each with defined commercial mechanisms that will allow DCC the flexibility to recomplete the SoWs in line with the preferred technology roadmap, bringing in improved service, a reduction in the cost to serve, and innovation from the market.

62. Figure 3: DSP Lotting structure



63. RFP 1 Contracts will be awarded in October 2024 (MS28), with the following interim stages:

- 1) **First Down Select** - Assessment of the suitability of bidders and down select based on provider capability against a defined set of technical and operational questions. Due to complete in December 2023 (MS03).
 - 2) **Stage 1 Complete** - Paper-based exercise driving a further down select, providers will produce a defined set of products covering high level requirements, technical solution, operational services measures, high level delivery plan, and Heads of Terms on commercial requirements. Due to complete in March 2024 (MS10).
 - 3) **Stage 2 Complete** - Negotiation period and preferred provider selected; the high level documents produced in RFP stage 1 will be developed to contract ready documents for the preferred bidder. Due to complete in July 2023 (MS15).
 - 4) **Stage 3 Complete** - A period to close off and complete the contractual arrangements in advance of contract award. Due to complete in August 2024 (MS19).
64. Alignment of DCC lotting approach against previous DSP workstreams. Previously, DCC consulted on the following DSP workstreams:
- 1) Commodity Capabilities. These are off-the-shelf products which are not specific to SMIP standards and includes capabilities such as connectivity, hosting and storage.
 - 2) Non SMIP Specific Capabilities. This includes the underlying technologies that supports the platform such as database technology.
 - 3) SMIP Specific Capabilities. This includes capabilities which deliver the requirements set out in the SEC, such as security applications, message request processing, DUIS (DCC User Interface Specification), GBCS (GB Companion Specification) and anomaly detection.
65. Following market engagement, these have been refined. Commodity Capabilities and Non SMIP Specific Capabilities are captured within Lot 1, SoW 3 & 5 and Lot 3. SMIP Specific Capabilities are captured within Lot 1 SoW 2, 4 & 6 and Lot 2.

4.3. Proposed Regulatory Change

66. As with previous plans implemented by DCC through a Direction from Government, we expect that DESNZ will use its Secretary of State powers to direct changes to the SEC which are necessary to deliver the plan, and DCC will manage consultations on some of these changes in the same way we have done for other programmes under transitional governance. Specifically, we have assumed that any changes to the DCC Licence or the main body of the SEC that are to be made by the Secretary of State will be consulted upon by DESNZ. Any changes to subsidiary documents that are to be made by the Secretary of State will be consulted upon by DCC.
67. We have assessed potential regulatory change during the earlier stages of the Programme. Whilst key Programme drivers include provision of no less capability than that delivered today, largely defined by the SEC, there will be opportunities to improve upon this service. Some of these improvements may require amendments to the SEC.
68. Once there is certainty on what changes may be required, DCC will consult with stakeholders on the proposed scope of regulatory change. We expect that this consultation will conclude no later than November 2024 (MS30) and work will commence on this consultation once the RFP Stage 2 milestone has completed, and a preferred Service Provider has been selected. If specific potential changes to the SEC become known in advance of the proposed scope of regulatory change, DCC may consult earlier on these topics.
69. If DCC become aware of feedback from stakeholders as a result of the proposed scope of regulatory change that may impact programme requirements, DCC will review on a case-by-case basis and make a decision whether resolution should be pre contract award or post contract award through change control, whichever has the best outcome.

70. Additionally, within this consultation DCC will set out our engagement roadmap for regulatory change, running up to the confirmation of regulatory change needed for the new DSP.

4.4. Lessons Learned

71. DCC provided a view on specific programme Lessons Learned as part of our 2021 LC13B consultation. Below we provide a further update to these, in context of our revised plan.

Lessons Learnt	Action the NE DSP Programme Has Taken (2021)	Our Update on this in 2023
Build more time in the plan for engagement (SECAS, Industry & BEIS, now DESNZ) ahead of RFP. Lesson learnt from CH&N that we need to engage more effectively on the options and the development of the preferred solution.	The programme has added in more time for engagement ahead of RFP, which includes industry workshops on migration.	The DCC Programme has undertaken thorough and consistent engagement with customers and the SECAS committees/sub-committees during the period.
Ensure sufficient time for consultation with SECAS sub committees and industry is built into the plan, ensuring complete alignment across what artefacts will be shared, when and why.	We are working with the SEC Sub-Committee chairs with regards to aligning on the engagement plan. We have collaboratively agreed all the artifacts we intend to present to each committee, when and for what purpose. This also includes a plan on when we intend to carry out industry consultations.	We have agreed multiple assurance points within the programme plan (including with customers, the department, and possible bidders) to ensure that requirements are fit for purpose, of good quality and complete.
Working closely with BEIS, now DESNZ in advance of each stage of business case approval to ensure alignment, that expectations are met and there is no delay to signing of contracts related to this approval process.	We are working closely with BEIS, now DESNZ to identify the key decision points and approval criteria to support the programme in transitioning through its delivery stages promptly.	DCC understands the benefit of working closely with DESNZ and provide accurate information in a timely manner. Whilst steps have been taken, further improvements could be made as we approach the FBC stage. Additionally, we have created a specialist team to support Business Case development, including the use of external experts where required.
Incorporate more time into the plan for contract negotiation. CH&N have taken longer than expected to negotiate a contract.	We have added 12 weeks into plan as contingency to allow for this and will be proactively assessing ways to drive negotiations through more effectively	DCC are pursuing a new contracting approach, moving from a model services contract to a private sector style Master Services Agreement (MSA). This means the legal framework to contract with a provider can be negotiated and agreed at the start of the procurement. The negotiation phase will therefore focus on specific SOW, which focuses on specific commercials only. This we expect that this can be concluded within the 3-month contract negotiation period within the Programme plan.

<p>Ensure requirements are thoroughly traced back to contracts as well as the wider DCC eco system. ECOS had to conduct a retrospective exercise at the point of contract negotiation/award as there were gaps within the requirements.</p>	<p>We are carrying out independent assurance of the requirements ahead of RFP-2 to check for quality and completeness. We are also ensuring the programme evidence traceability back to contracts, designs, etc.</p>	<p>The RFP is split into 3 phases, with the number of bidders reducing at each phase. The depth of the content shared with bidders increases in each phase with the latter requirements set having independent reviewed for traceability and scope coverage.</p> <p>RFP phase 1 requirements have had multiple reviews covering both depth and coverage.</p> <p>SEC and REC traceability is created through the creation of Obligations derived through reviewing the SEC and REC.</p>
<p>Holding customers workshops on Transition/Migration worked well on SMETS1.</p>	<p>The programme has added in more time for engagement ahead of RFP, which includes industry workshops on migration.</p>	<p>The DCC Programme held drop-in sessions on 31 March and 25 August 2023 to discuss the risks and mitigations of Transition/Migration. Output was captured, including positive feedback from attendees. Future engagement on this topic will be scheduled during the next stage of the Programme.</p>
<p>DCC to define the commercials within the OBC/FBC as early as possible, alongside the economic case and not separately.</p>	<p>We will be constructing a commercial case in parallel to the FBC and it will be shared as part of the iterative discussion with BEIS, now DESNZ as and when the content is developed.</p>	<p>The OBC commercial case was shared as part the DSP OBC business case submission in June 2023; however, this was not shared separately in advance. DCC engaged with DESNZ to communicate high level commercial constructs and how these influenced the economic case as part of the initial drafting stage.</p>
<p>When considering options to be included within the business case, engagement needs to take place early enough in the OBC development process for responses to inform DCC's decision making process. The CH&N CBA was late in the process and gave customers the feeling they couldn't change anything.</p>	<p>We have planned in engagement earlier in the OBC cycle, leaving enough time to incorporate inputs from industry ahead of OBC sign off and RFP issue.</p>	<p>The DSP Programme held a number of customer workshops and drop-in sessions to capture the views of stakeholders in advance of submitting our OBC. This included workshops and drop-ins on 14 October and 9 December 2022 and on 27 January, 3 February, 10 February, 31 March and a final update on 30 June 2023.</p>
<p>To ensure stakeholders have assessed, understand, and support our approach to the whole testing process, we will seek TAG's involvement in PIT and all subsequent testing stages.</p>	<p>Within our engagement plan we have built in sessions which will involve TAG & SMKI PMA in the development of our test approach documentation.</p>	<p>The approach has been confirmed. In addition to the normal monthly progress update to TAG, we will bring the Test Approach to TAG for formal approval.</p>
<p>Testing Governance requires time and in previous programmes it has been necessary to ask TAG and others to operate to compressed timetables. We will include sufficient windows for testing governance in this plan.</p>	<p>Multiple TAG engagements have been built into the plan as well as the time required to carry out further testing governance and due diligence.</p>	<p>The approach has been confirmed. Formal TAG governance will constitute 3 parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test Approach and scope approval 2. PIT exit approval

3. SIT approval

In addition, the decision to open the user test environments for user testing will be agreed with TAG.

The plan should assume a minimum of 6-week governance cycle for each of the formal governance activities.

Ensure that a consistent methodology (across DCC) on how requirements are documented for the procurement of services (in a quality and clear manner) is implemented.

We are taking the output from the consultancy as a baseline and have also agreed multiple assurance points within the programme plan in order to ensure that the requirements are fit for purpose, of good quality and complete.

We will engage an external consultancy to review the requirements for both scope, detail, traceability and completeness as part of the process of creating RFP-2.

Provide shortlisted bidders with enough information, over and above the SEC, that allows them to understand the as is solution comprehensively. Other programme experience of just using the SEC documents as requirements, even when bolstered with the BRD, ends up delivering a solution that may meet most or all of the requirements, but does not actually work properly for our users, and is not easily operable or maintainable by the DCC.

We have prepared a summary of the SEC requirements for the RFI and key data points on volumetrics and performance. During the RFP we will also be sharing specific artifacts with the shortlisted/preferred bidders which will include a comprehensive view of the as is design interface, as well as the high-level designs of the 'to be' solution. We will extract and re-use as much of the artefacts as legally and commercially possible from the incumbent Service Provider.

Functional and non-functional requirements are being defined by SMEs at iterative levels of detail throughout the RFP process to ensure that all requirements (not just those captured in SEC) are captured and shared with bidders.

Later in the RFP process DCC will invite bidders to share proposed designs which will be validated to ensure all requirements are fulfilled.

Also, we will extract and re-use as much of the artefacts as legally and commercially possible from the incumbent Service Provider, both to maximise re-use and to ensure coverage.

4.1. Summary and Control Points

72. In this section we have described our approach to gathering programme requirements, how we are engaging with the market in advance of RFP, our approach to proposed regulatory change and how DCC intends to run our RFP for both core DSP and SI functions.
73. We have not proposed the use of plan Control Points in advance of contract award.

Question 3

Do you agree with our DSP Programme approach up to Contract Award?

5. Delivery Plan Activities post Contract Award

74. This section provides a summary of Programme activities that will take place following non objection of the FBC and award of contract to successful Service Providers. As such, planning for this period is less certain and will need to take into account the specific offering of the Service Providers that are appointed.

5.1. Approach to DCC Design, Build and Testing

75. Testing forms the core of the DSP Plan, and it is vital that the testing undertaken is of a high standard and of the appropriate depth and breadth, commensurate with the significance of the programme's objectives.
76. The DCC has been through several important testing cycles in different delivery programmes, and we seek constantly to learn from our experiences, building on our successes and making changes where improvements have been identified. As a result, DCC will adopt the 'shift-left' principle whereby we increase the breadth and depth of testing in PIT and SIT, using real devices to demonstrate fitness for purpose. We consider that this approach must be supported by robust external assurance of testing in PIT and SIT.
77. The test lifecycle has three key phases:
- 1) Pre-Integration Testing (PIT) encompasses functional and non-functional unit testing, link testing, and system testing, and a stage of early integration testing, or Component Integration Testing (CIT). CIT is focussed on flushing out any integration errors before the programme exits the PIT phase. The opportunity for adoption of innovative technologies, architecture, development and testing techniques and tools by the DSP Programme provide the possibility to 'shift-left' the identification of errors into the design and development phases, thereby minimising defect leakage from PIT into subsequent test phases. There is a three-week window between PIT exit and SIT entry within our plan.
 - 2) System Integration Testing (SIT) verifies the end-to end operation of the DCC Total System through the integration of the DSP with its interfacing systems and subsystems. The opportunity for adoption of innovative technologies, architecture and tools by the DSP Programme provide the possibility of introducing new testing techniques and tools to optimise testing quality, speed and effort in SIT. We assumed a four-week window between SIT exit and UIT start, which would require DCC to prepare the Test Completion Report in advance of the last day of SIT and align to the (Test Assurance Board) TAB and monthly (Test Advisory Group) TAG meeting cycle.
 - 3) User Testing (UT) provides the opportunity for DCC Service Users to undertake testing to verify the integration of the DCC Total System with their own systems and processes. The opportunity for adoption of innovative technologies, architecture and tools by the DSP Programme provide the possibility of introducing new testing tools to support User Testing execution and reporting.
78. We anticipate that DESNZ will require the DCC to produce a SEC Variations Testing Approach Document (SVTAD), which will form an Appendix to the Smart Energy Code and provide the regulatory framework for and external governance of DCC DSP testing on which a DSP Test Approach Document (DSP TAD) will be developed. The DSP TAD will set out the broad scope and approach to testing across the DSP Programme.
79. Where a technical verification of certain DSP requirements cannot be conducted through technical testing, DCC will arrange for alternative methods to be used. The scope of this verification will include – but is not limited to – Business Acceptance, Operational Acceptance Testing, Infrastructure Testing and consultation with DCC Service Management, Issue

Management, Operations, Security & other appropriate functions. Collectively, this scope is known as Transition To Operations Testing (TTOT).

- 80. DCC will test the proposed routing and migration functionality by utilising the 'as-is' and 'to-be' SIT environments in parallel. We will test positive and negative scenarios for dual running and ensure that cutovers will function as expected. DCC will assure the performance and capacity of the new DSP system in dual running and in post-migration modes.
- 81. User testing arrangements, including regression testing, will be fully defined and Users engaged once a Service Provider has been appointed.
- 82. High level testing milestones have been provided within our milestone plan and POAP (Appendix A & C). These will be refined once a Service Provider is updated. Additionally, we have assumed a four-week period between submission of the Live Service Criteria document and a decision being made for Go-Live (MS43).

Question 4

Do you agree with DCC's approach to testing? Are there any other testing constraints or opportunities that should be considered?

5.2. Approach to Transition (Go Live) and Migration

- 83. A 'big bang' go live is not preferred by customers or DCC due to the unacceptable level of risk. Therefore, a phased migration approach will be adopted, and migration routing functionality to direct transactions to the correct system for the period of dual running will be required. The detailed approach and design will be defined during the RFP and DBT phases. We will work closely with our Service Providers (leveraging their experience and industry best practice), customers, and stakeholders to define a phased approach striking a balance between risk and benefit realisation, considering any constraints and the operational impacts of dual running.
- 84. As an example, constraint: only one DSP can be the owner of a device at one time due to the use of ACB keys, therefore the migration approach will most likely need to be device based (as opposed to migrating sub-sets of functionalities). This suggests that all functionalities would be required on day one of the migration in the To-Be DSP.
- 85. The DCC approach to transition will be informed by relevant industry feedback, external governance processes and the selected Service Providers.

5.3. Confirmed Regulatory Change

- 86. The confirmed or more detailed regulatory Change will follow completion of procurement and contract award to ensure new arrangements will continue to align to SEC requirements. We will work with DESNZ to consult with industry stakeholders to confirm these changes to the SEC. This will be driven by confirmation of detailed design and our plan is that the latest date our consultation process will conclude is August 2025 (MS35). The use of a 'latest date' within this milestone is reflective of the potential need for different regulatory change topics to be consulted on at different times.
- 87. From a programmatic perspective we expect to work with DESNZ to identify the appropriate time to consult on DSP specific updates to the SEC Subsidiary Document, the 'Network Evolution Transition and Migration Approach Document (NETMAD)'. This document will reflect transitional provisions of the Programme including the approach to implementation and migration. Again, at the appropriate time, we will consult with stakeholders on a SEC Variation Testing Approach Document (SVTAD) to confirm the framework for the testing required for the Programme.

Question 5

Do you agree with DCC's approach to Regulatory Change? Are there any other matters that should be considered?

5.4. Summary and Control Points

88. In this section we have described our broad approach to DBT, Transition & Migration and implementation of more granular regulatory change required by this programme. The specific actions undertaken by DCC and engagement with our stakeholders will be dependent on the organisations appointed at contract award.
89. We have scheduled a control point to assess whether our delivery plan will need to change following appointment of successful Service Providers, in November 2024 (MS29).
90. Additionally, we have scheduled a control point for the DSP Programme in February 2025 (MS33) following completion of detailed design. From this point DCC will have the information required to accurately and robustly plan up to Programme completion.

Question 6

Do you agree with our planned DSP Programme approach following Contract Award?

6. Plan interactions with other DCC and Industry Change

91. The delivery of the Data Service Programme will take place during a period of significant change in the energy sector. In this section we assess the key changes in which DCC is involved and set out how we propose to manage contention across this portfolio of change.

6.1. Smart Energy Code Releases

92. The SEC releases that will take place up to the design, build and test phase of the programme are being tracked within DCC. Whilst the content of each is not finalised, we can anticipate probable change and use this to develop our approach to manage contention. It will be important that testing requirements for DCC Users are understood for SEC releases and how that may impact on the DBT phase of the Programme.
93. Whilst the scope of change for 2025 SEC Releases onwards is unknown, DCC will monitor approved SEC modifications scheduled for these releases and add, remove and/or manage risks as they arise in relation to the DSP Programme and the requirements that it will deliver.

6.2. Faster Switching Programme and Retail Energy Code changes

94. Ofgem's Faster Switching Programme is progressing as planned and has delivered the Central Switching Service during the summer of 2022. On this basis we are confident there will be no contention on DCC resource. We will continue to contribute to the assessment and development of any changes to the Retail Energy Code (REC), under which DCC's switching obligations are governed, and as part of this process will consider the impacts on any proposed REC changes on delivery of the DSP Programme highlighting risks or points of contention as we do so.
95. Whilst the likelihood of REC releases impacting the DSP system is low, through impact assessments DCC will monitor and add, remove and/or manage risks as may arise.

6.3. Market-wide Half Hourly Settlement

96. Elexon (as Senior Responsible Owner) are currently overseeing a transition to Market Wide Half-Hourly Settlements (MHHS) for all energy consumers for this Ofgem sponsored programme. This programme will require significant change across the industry and will impact DCC.
97. The MHHS SEC Modification MP162 has been approved by Ofgem to introduce a new DCC User (Meter Data Retrieval Agents - MDRA) and Party to the SEC who can retrieve the data on behalf of Energy Supplier for settlement purposes. Additionally, DCC is working with our contracted Service Providers to fulfil the MHHS requirement of additional capacity to accommodate over 17,000 half-hourly readings per year per meter. DCC's MHHS required SEC changes are planned to go-live in the June 2024 SEC Release. This supports the wider programme timings, with migration of consumers to half-hourly settlements due to start in April 2025 and complete in October 2026.
98. DCC implementation of MHHS changes to the SEC/DSP will be completed in April 2024, well in advance of anticipated DSP Contract Award in February 2025. DCC will need to ensure that there is no disruption to service, including to the additional capacity needed to support MHHS, particularly during the Energy Supplier led migration from mid-2025 onwards and therefore needs to remain within scope of DSP Programme monitoring.

6.4. Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS)

99. DCC is continuing its delivery of a programme of work to replace the existing Transitional Change of Supplier (TCoS) arrangements with a more robust set of enduring arrangements – the Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) arrangements. PIT, SIT and UIT for the ECoS Programme have

completed, so there is no contention with the DSP Programme. The ECoS Programme was successfully implemented on 29 June 2023 (June 2023 SEC Release) and has defined and implemented the enduring arrangements for the changing of security credentials on SMETS Devices. The migration of TCoS Certificates to ECoS Certificates is now underway and carried out automatically using a tool created by DCC for already installed Devices (the Device Candidate Selection Engine, or DCSE).

100. We do not perceive contention between the DSP and ECoS Programmes. We assume that the ECoS migration will be complete in advance of DSP DBT phase, any change to this will need to be assessed and associated risks managed by both Programmes.

6.5. Network Evolution – Communications Hubs and Networks

101. DCC is due to start the enduring supply (mass volumes) of 4G Communications Hubs on 30 June 2025, in alignment with the current approved LC13B plan for its Communications Hubs and Networks programme (CHN).
102. We do not perceive any overlap of resource or linked system change between the CHN Programme and the DSP Programme.

6.6. Network Evolution – PKI Enduring Programme

103. The Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) Enduring (PKI-E) Programme is focused on reprocurring the Trusted Service Provider (TSP) Service, which is the largest of the PKI applications and includes SMKI and IKI. The TSP contract will expire in March 2025 (with an option to extend an additional year to March 2026, subject to the proper regulatory controls). The procurement of DSP DCCKI and PKI-E are not dependent on each other. However, placing extensibility arrangements within the new PKI-E contract will allow the option for future accommodation of other PKIs as a subsequent programme-led initiative, subject to the proper regulatory controls. This would avoid blocking any such strategic changes as these programmes develop and limits any dependency complications on the part of this procurement. For the avoidance of doubt, the DCCKI hosting option would only be aimed at the signing service element, and the repository would remain in the consuming service as per PKI, in this case DSP.
104. DCCKI is the PKI hosting solution currently part of the DSP. It has several uses, principally protecting communications to devices. As part of the DSP re-procurement, it has been suggested the Certificate Authority for DCCKI would sit well within the TSP as historically it was commissioned after TSP had been set-up. This fits in with PKI strategy but cannot be confirmed at this stage. To ensure no barriers are put in place, as part of this re-procurement DCCKI remains within scope of the DSP Programme and any future realignment of Key Infrastructure services would need to be managed by a distinct DCC Programme.
105. Because both DSP and PKI-E are at an early stage of design, the dependencies between them, or any risks to the overall integrity of the solution due to any system contentions, are not fully known, but expected to be minimal. This is an area the DCC will manage closely between the two programmes in terms of design, testing and planning dependencies.
106. We see the risk as being minimal: as key architectural principles of the To-Be DSP are portability and the use of standards-based interfaces. Therefore, the DSP will be designed to enable integrating systems to be swapped out with minimal impact. So if PKI-E is not in place in time for the DSP design, build and test it will integrate with the existing PKI, and then be swapped out at a later date.

6.7. Network Evolution – Test Automation Framework

107. DCC is currently planning changes to its approach to testing to enable greater automation. The Test Automation Framework (TAF) is a platform agnostic tool which has the ability to be used

24/7 across multiple environments executing tests concurrently in multiple meter sets, whilst capturing device information and logs using robotics.

108. The Design, Build and Test plan for TAF is still in development, and for the purposes of this programme we have placed no dependency on the TAF tool for testing to proceed.

Question 7

Do you agree with our assessment of external change which could impact or be impacted by the re-procurement of the DSP Service? Are there areas that we have not considered?

7. Dependencies and Assumptions

109. We have reviewed and where necessary revised the previously consulted on external dependencies and assumptions – i.e. those over which DCC does not have direct control – that underpin the plan. New dependencies and assumptions have been added and those that no longer apply have been removed and explained in the following section.

7.1. Updated Dependencies

Ref	Title	Who	Date/Duration	Description
D1	Updated to reflect change from BEIS to DESNZ and include FBC: Review and non-objection of OBC/FBC	DESNZ	Provide non objection in line with the published plan.	DCC's Licence requires that DCC submits its proposals for DSP procurement to the Secretary of State and the procurement can only proceed where they do not object. We will do this through the submission of the DSP Business Cases to DESNZ ahead of contract award. DCC will not progress to the relevant stage without this dependency being met. The DCC OBC for Data Systems is with DESNZ for review at the time of issuing this consultation.

7.2. Dependences which have been met or are no longer valid

110. A number of Programme Dependencies have either been met or are no longer valid. These are:
111. (D2) SEC Panel to provide advice to DCC on meeting SEC party business needs. **DCC has completed engagement with the SEC Panel ahead of submitting our OBC to DESNZ.**
112. (D3) Enduring Change of Supplier (ECoS) arrangements are implemented on time. The ECoS Programme was successfully implemented on 29 June 2023, and is therefore no longer a dependency for the DSP Programme.
113. (D4) Trusted Service Provider (TSP) arrangements are implemented on time. The TSP Programme successfully went live in April 2022 as planned and is therefore no longer a dependency for the DSP Programme. A related assumption (A2) has been raised in relation to the enduring PKI-E Programme, also described within Section 6.6 of this document.

7.1. Updated Assumptions

Ref	Title	Description
A1	Updated to reflect proposed programme plan: There is sufficient time to complete procurement, design, build, test, and transition ahead of October 2027	The plan has been built on the assumption that the time between FBC non objection (October 2024) and October 2027 is sufficient to complete procurement, design, build, test, and transition to a new Service Provider. Additional contingency will be assessed as part of the planned Control Point 2 and Contract Award process, planned for October

		2024 and dependent on the Service Providers appointed at that time.
A2	New: PKI-E Programme.	<p>DSP and PKI-E (TSP) programmes are not linked from a delivery perspective, given the different timeframes. This will be confirmed to DESNZ, as part of the PKI-E Strategic Outline Business Case.</p> <p>The TSP service (SMKI) is essentially the front end of the process for requesting/revoking Device/Org Certs. Once the request is made the rest is done at the SMKI Repository end, which sits with the DSP.</p> <p>Go live for the re-procured TSP service is planned for 31/03/26, which is ahead of DSP delivery. Assumption therefore is that any DSP testing would be completed against the new TSP service.</p>
A3	New: Systems Integrator (DSP DBT) in place.	<p>DCC are planning to appoint a DSP SI in July 2024 (MS18) and for the service to be in place by August 2024 (MS21) to support with the wider DSP procurement and development of the Design Build Test of the DSP.</p> <p>The Enduring SI is planned to be in place for the end of ELS for the DSP SI. SI functionality in relation to the FSM Programme will also need to be in place and considered alongside the DSP Programme.</p>
A4	New: Provision of Legacy DSP Services	Legacy DSP services will be available for the period up to go live of the new DSP Service Provider(s) as described in Section 3.2.

Question 8

Do you agree with DCC's updated dependencies and assumptions? Are there any that have not been included, or any which have been included incorrectly or inaccurately?

8. Risks and Opportunities

114. In this section we set out the risks and opportunities which could impact or be impacted by the plan. We have reviewed and where necessary revised the risk and opportunities that we previously consulted on. New risks and opportunities have been added and those that no longer apply have been removed and explained in the following section.

8.1. Updated Risks

Ref	Description	Impact	Mgt Strategy
R1	Updated: There is a risk that timelines for procurement, design, build and test are longer than currently planned.	There may be insufficient time to complete the design, build and test activities as planned ahead of October 2027 plan completion. This could result in an interruption to DSP service.	This risk will be assessed as part of the planned Control Point 2 and Contract Award process, planned for October 2024 and dependent on the Service Providers appointed at that time.
R2	Retained: Dependencies are delayed; There are a number of external dependencies in the plan where DCC does not have contractual levers to drive activity in accordance with the plan.	Any delay in meeting these dependencies will have an impact on the plan and subsequent milestones with will delay delivery.	DCC will engage with all external parties we are dependent on to ensure that dependencies are understood and that risks to dates are identified early.
R3	Retained: Urgent SEC MOD releases or unplanned additional change are required to be implemented at short notice (especially for changes to DSP).	Planned project timeline could be delayed and costs increase as a result of in-flight changes.	Changes between during the DBT and go-live of the new solution will have to be impact assessed by this programme and a decision taken by the appropriate body as to whether the change is urgent enough to require incorporation into the programme in-flight.
R4	Retained: Change control and baseline of changes to existing DSP.	There is a risk that a change control period may be required for the existing DSP which would present problems to SEC parties and/or DCC operations.	As the preferred option and the transition approach is developed, the programme will define the likely change control period required. Once Service Providers (DSP and SI) are appointed, the Programme will work with stakeholders and seek to establish a plan which is acceptable striking a balance between minimising the risks of changing the baseline during a transition period with delivering essential change.
R5	New: There is a risk that the DSP DBT SI is not appointed in time for DBT start.	The start of DBT may be delayed, depending on possible mitigating actions.	DCC will consider other options to a DBT delay, such as temporarily appointing an existing DCC Service Provider in this capacity. This would be subject the relevant regulatory controls and timely engagement with Ofgem as a minimum.

8.2. Updated Opportunities

Ref	Description	Impact	Mgt Strategy
EO1	Reusable Components – there are a number of components in the existing DSP which may be made available for re-use by prospective vendors.	This may reduce timelines for design, build and test of the new service.	The Market Engagement and RFP activities will establish whether these components can be reused to reduce costs/timelines. The source code will be presented to shortlisted bidders to note their preference for re-use.
EO2	Use of Test Automation Framework	DCC is developing a Test Automation Framework which may provide opportunities for a shortened SIT test cycle.	As the plans for design, build and test are developed, the programme will assess whether the Testing Automation Framework can deliver opportunities to reduce the SIT test phase duration.

Question 9

Do you agree with DCC's updated assessment of the key external risks and opportunities? Are there any that have not been included, or any which have been included incorrectly or inaccurately?

9. Customer Journey and Engagement

9.1. Overview

115. In this section we set out the sequential key points in the delivery of the plan which will impact or require action from customers. We also describe the engagement we will undertake during the delivery of the plan, and the role of industry in go-live decision-making points. DCC and the SEC Panel have an agreed upon framework for engagement, the Programme Assurance Policy, which underpins our approach to planning engagement. The below activities have been decided based to ensure compliance with that policy.

Activity	Description	Date
Consultation on plan (This document)	DCC will consult on the plan for the Programme with industry and provide industry with the opportunity to feedback any impacts as a result of the plan.	Q3 2023
Customer impacts	DCC will engage with customers on potential impacts arising from any change.	Q3 2023 to Q1 2024
HLRs	High level requirements (HLRs) will be signed off by the end of September. Engagement on these and any requirements requiring next level scrutiny will be reviewed by customers.	Q3 2023 to Q1 2024
OBC (revised version)	The revised OBC will be shared with SEC Panel and QFF.	Q4 2023 to Q1 2024
Regulatory changes	Regulatory changes needed to implement the Programme will be discussed with customers.	Q3 2024 to Q3 2025
Stage 2 engagement	Engagement with all stakeholders, including the Department, the SEC Sub-Committees and our customers will occur throughout the lifecycle of the programme.	Q3 2023 to Q1 2025

116. The Outline Business Case has been shared with customers. This contains a more detailed version of the solutions outlined in this stage of the Programme along with an outline of the Requirements that need to be met for the DCC and our users.

9.2. Key engagement topics

117. This section summarises engagement during Stages 1 and 2.

Activity	Description	Date
SOBC	Redacted Strategic Outline Business Case shared with customers.	Q4 2022
Technical solutions (Options)	Customers engaged on Options 1 to 5 (from a long list of 30).	Q3 2022 to Q2 2024
'To-Be' architecture	Customers engaged on all aspects of 'To-Be' architecture (including ACB Keys, Gateway options, connectivity, security).	Q3 2022 to Q1 2023
Business Needs	Customers engaged on how the Options meet the Business Needs.	Q3 2022 to Q1 2024
Mitigation of Options' impact	Customers engaged on the mitigations of each Option.	Q4 2022 to Q1 2024
Transition and migration principles	Customers engaged on the transition and migration principles of each Option.	Q4 2022 to Q2 2024
Security of Options	Customers engaged on DCC's approach to SMKI Recovery, SKMI Repo and DCCKI Repo, HSMs on public Cloud and given a high-level update on the risk assessment of the Options.	Q4 2022
Impact on Service	Customers provided with a summary of how each Option might impact on service levels.	Q1 2023 to Q2 2024

9.3. Customer Journey and key milestones

- 118.** Listening to our customers has been key to the submission of the OBC. Over the course of more than 40 separate engagement sessions since the Department's non-objection to the Strategic Outline Business Case, customers confirmed that Options 1 and 2 did not sufficiently meet their Business Needs. At the SEC Panel (28/02/23), Panel confirmed Options 3, 4 and 5 meet their Business Needs and recognised that commercial and contractual strategies, risks and costs are differentiators between the options.

Engagement with Governance Bodies

119. The table below sets out DCC's planned engagement with stakeholder governance bodies during the delivery of the plan. These activities are potentially subject to change, depending on needs of Customers or the DSP Programme.

Activity	Description	Date	Completed at time of publication?
DSP requirements	TABASC to discuss the list of requirements reviewed by the CFDA and sent to TABASC in advance TABASC to discuss the list of requirements to ensure they will deliver the agreed Business Needs.	05/10/23	Y
DSP requirements	OPSG to discuss the list of requirements to ensure they will deliver the agreed Business Needs.	10/10/23	Y
DSP requirements	SMKI PMA to discuss the list of requirements to ensure they will deliver the agreed Business Needs.	11/10/23	Y
DSP requirements	SSC to discuss the list of requirements to ensure they will deliver the agreed Business Needs.	11/10/23	Y
DSP requirements	TABASC to discuss the list of requirements to ensure they will deliver the agreed Business Needs.	19/10/23	
Testing	TAG to give an overview of the programme.	25/10/23	
DSP update	DCC to share a high-level overview of the programme with IMF and remind members to feed into the Consultation.	26/10/23	
Drop-in on SI	Drop-in to share the scope and long-list Options we are considering for the Systems Integrator Programme.	27/10/23	

DSP requirements	TABASC to share updates made to Requirements following TABASC 94X meeting.	02/11/23
DSP requirements	Customer workshop to discuss the identified requirements for the DSP Core solution to ensure users understand how the identified user Business Needs will be delivered.	24/11/23
DSP update	TAG to give an update on the status of the programme.	29/11/23
DSP DBT SI OBC building blocks	TABASC to discuss the DSP DBT SI Building blocks – Requirements mapped to Business Needs.	07/12/23
DSP DBT SI OBC	OPSG to discuss the DSP DBT SI Building blocks – Requirements mapped to Business Needs.	12/12/23
DPS LC13B	IMF to discuss the LC13B Consultation conclusion.	19/12/23

120. The above table is a snapshot of planned engagement over the next three months and is updated on an ongoing basis. The same level of engagement will be present throughout the lifetime of the Programme.

Question 10

Do you support DCC's proposals for engagement with stakeholders during the delivery of the plan? Please tell us why.

9.4. Implementation Managers Forum and Smart Metering Delivery Group (SMDG)

121. Once the plan is baselined, the DCC will provide regular updates on progress towards the milestones submitted for monitoring at the IMF and SMDG monthly meetings.
122. Appendix C highlights the milestones that DCC intends to submit to IMF and include within the Joint Industry Plan (JIP).

Question 11

Do you support DCC's proposals for LC13B Milestones that should be included within the JIP? Please explain your response.

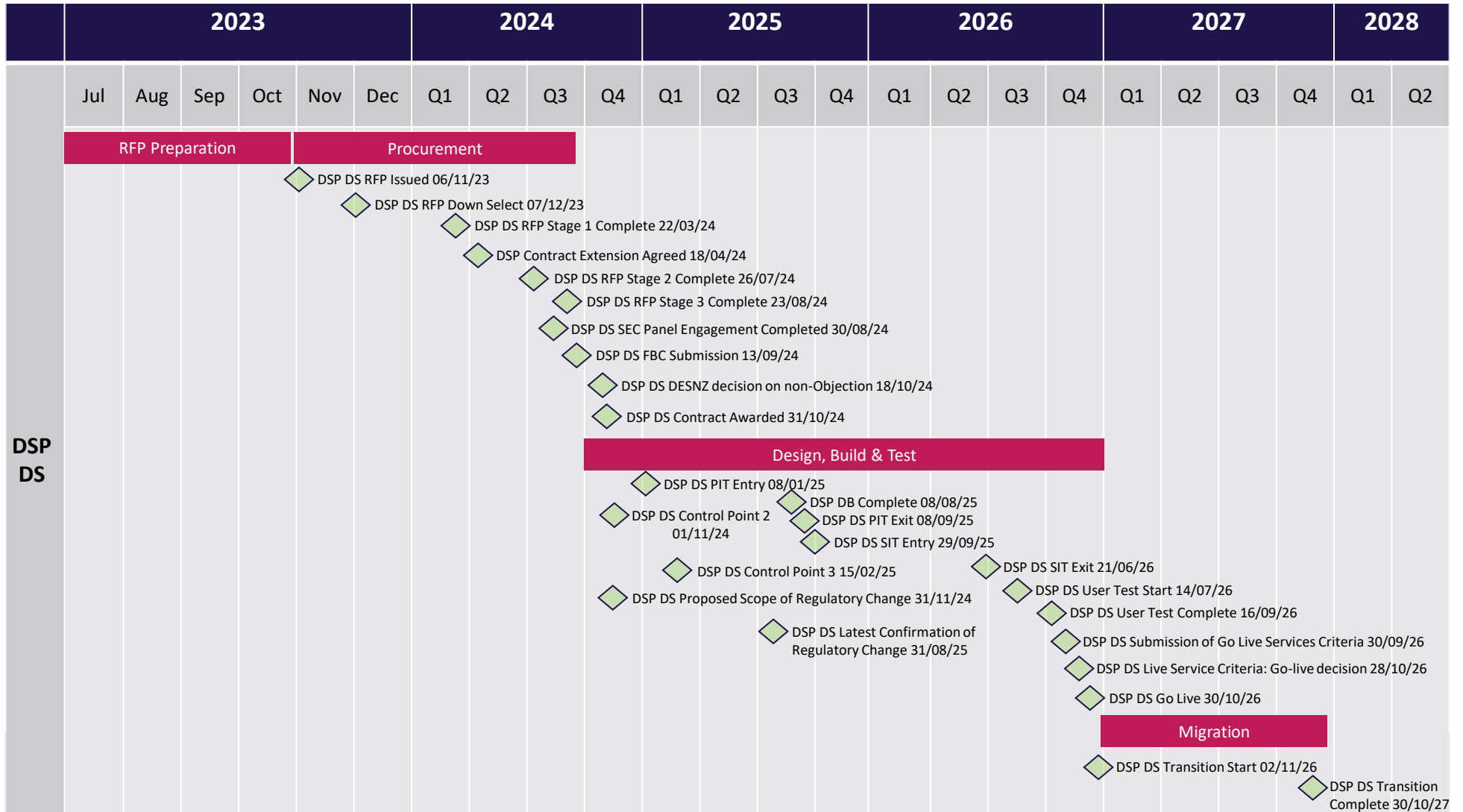
10. Next Steps

- 123.** This consultation closes at **16:00 on 15 December 2023**. Please email your response to consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.
- 124.** DCC reserves the right not to publish, or to delay publication of, referenced material or documents and/or respondent feedback for confidentiality, commercial, compliance and/or legal reasons.
- 125.** Subject to paragraph 124:
- 1) consultation responses may be published on our website www.smartdcc.co.uk. Please state clearly in writing whether you want all or any part, of your consultation to be treated as confidential. It would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.
 - 2) Please note that responses in their entirety (including any text marked confidential) may be made available to the Department and the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority (the Authority), who are subject to public law duties and obligations as regards such information and its publication, entirely separate to DCC.
- 126.** If you have any questions in relation to this consultation, please contact DCC via consultations@smartdcc.co.uk.

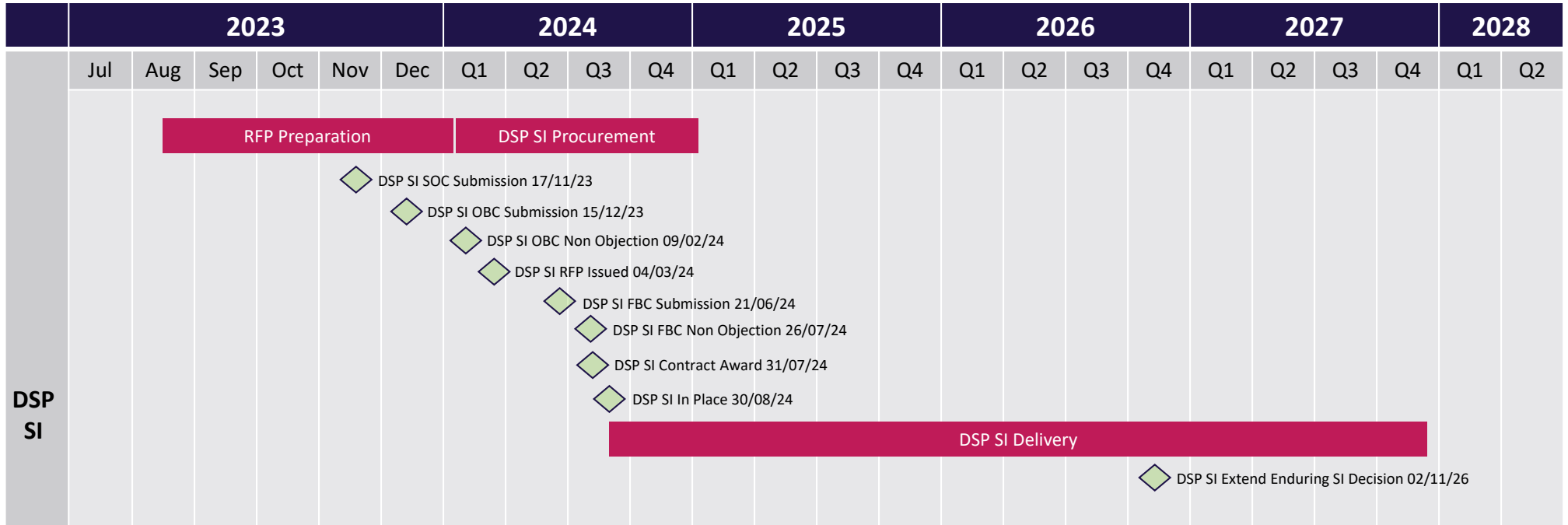
11. List of Consultation Questions

1	Is there anything further that you would like us to consider within our planning activities? Please provide any details.
2	Do you agree with the proposed revised LC13B plan? Are there any milestones that you consider should be included that are not? Please provide a rationale for your views.
3	Do you agree with our DSP Programme approach up to Contract Award?
4	Do you agree with DCC's approach to testing? Are there any other testing constraints or opportunities that should be considered?
5	Do you agree with DCC's approach to Regulatory Change? Are there any other matters that should be considered?
6	Do you agree with our planned DSP Programme approach following Contract Award?
7	Do you agree with our assessment of external change which could impact or be impacted by the re-procurement of the DSP Service? Are there areas that we have not considered?
8	Do you agree with DCC's updated dependencies and assumptions? Are there any that have not been included, or any which have been included incorrectly or inaccurately?
9	Do you agree with DCC's updated assessment of the key external risks and opportunities? Are there any that have not been included, or any which have been included incorrectly or inaccurately?
10	Do you support DCC's proposals for engagement with stakeholders during the delivery of the plan? Please tell us why.
11	Do you support DCC's proposals for LC13B Milestones that should be included within the JIP? Please explain your response.

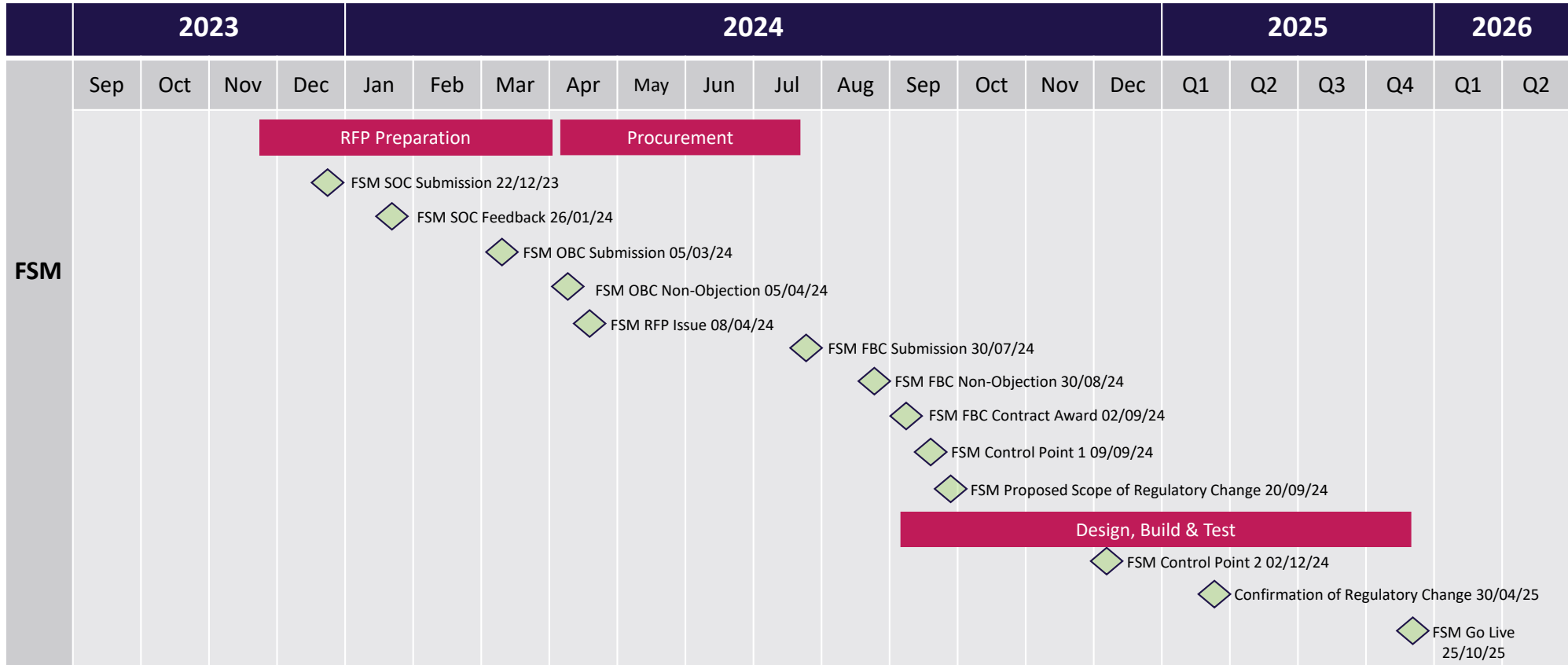
Appendix A – Plan on a Page (DSP)



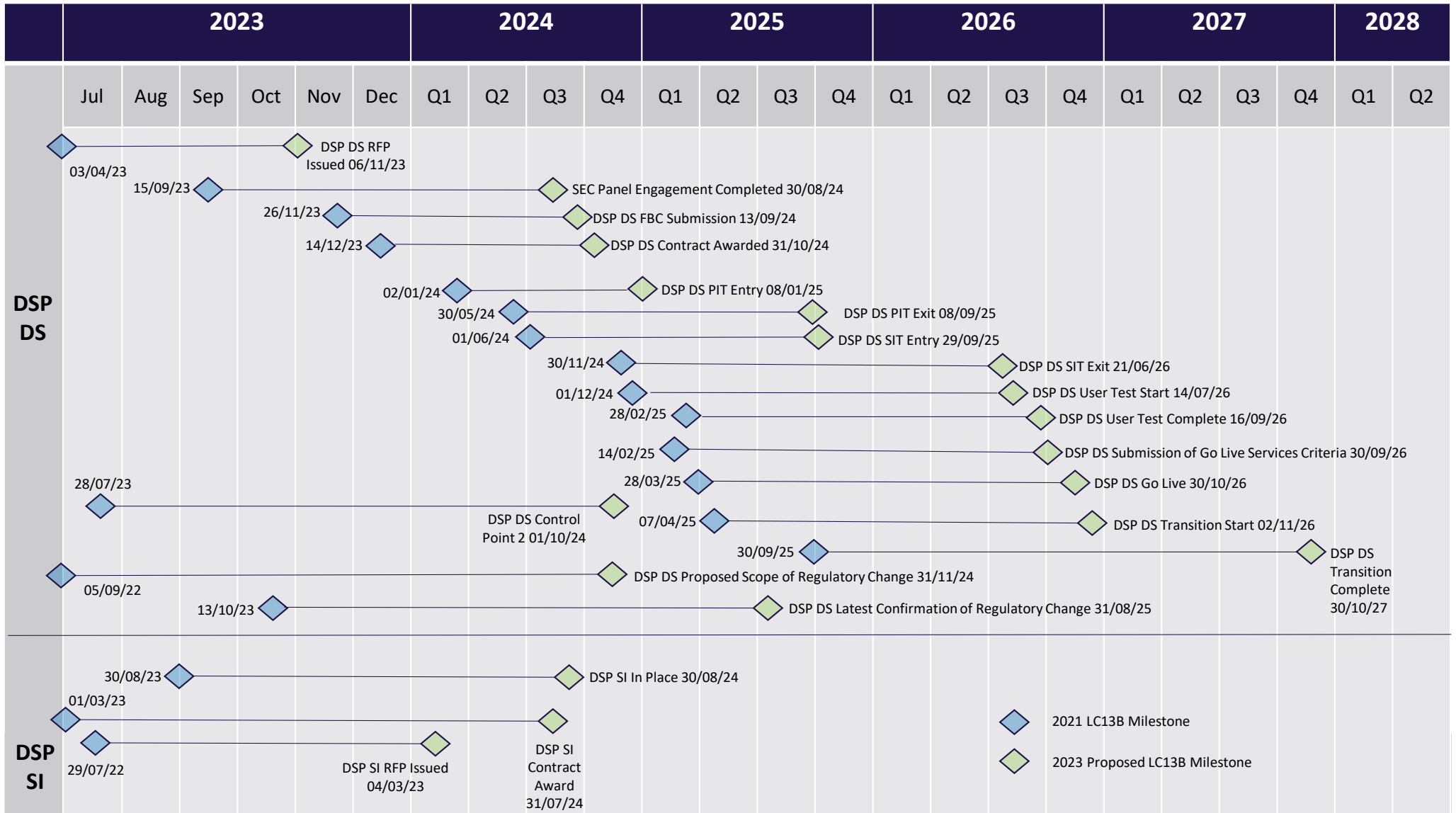
Appendix A – Plan on a Page (DSP DBT SI)



Appendix A – Plan on a Page (FSM)



Appendix B – Replanning of Previous DCC Milestones



Appendix C – Milestone Table

Programme Key	
DS Programme	Data Systems Programme The main Programme that will deliver the replacement DSP data systems service.
FSM Programme	Future Service Management The Programme that will deliver the replacement DCC Service Management System (DSMS)
DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme Systems Integration Programme. The sub-Programme that will appoint a Systems Integrator (SI) for DBT (option to extend to include Enduring SI activities).

#	Key Milestones	Description	JIP Y/N	Previous LC13B Date (January 2022)	Revised LC13B Date
1	Data Systems – RFP Issued	RFP issued for the Data Systems Programme. ITT issue, subject to receipt of non-objection from the Department.	Y	03 Apr 2023	06 Nov 2023
2	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Strategic Outline Case Submission	All DCC Internal approvals complete. Strategic Outline Case issued to the Department for review.	Y	N/A	17 Nov 2023
3	Data Systems – RFP, First Down Select	First down selection has completed.	N	N/A	07 Dec 2023
4	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Outline Business Case Submission	All DCC Internal approvals complete. Outline Business Case issued to the Department for review.	Y	N/A	15 Dec 2023
5	FSM – Strategic Outline Case Submission	All DCC Internal approvals complete. Strategic Outline Case issued to the Department for review.	Y	N/A	22 Dec 2023
6	FSM – Strategic SOC Feedback	DESNZ Feedback received for SOC.	Y	N/A	26 Jan 2024
7	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Outline Business Case	Non-objection to OBC confirmed by DESNZ.	Y	N/A	09 Feb 2024
8	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – RFP Issued	RFP Issue for the DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme.	Y	29 Jul 2022	04 Mar 2024

Consultation on the delivery plan for DSP Service Continuity

9	FSM – Outline Business Case Submission	All DCC Internal approvals complete. Outline Business Case issued to the Department for review.	Y	N/A	05 Mar 2024
10	Data Systems – RFP, Stage 1 Complete	Second down selection has completed.	N	N/A	22 Mar 2024
11	FSM – DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Outline Business Case	Non-objection to OBC confirmed by DESNZ.	Y	N/A	05 Apr 2024
12	FSM – RFP Issued	RFP Issue for the FSM Programme.	Y	N/A	08 Apr 2024
13	Data Systems – DSP Contract Extension Agreed	DCC has agreed an extension to the existing DSP contract following confirmation of necessary regulatory clearances.	N	N/A	18 Apr 2024
14	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Full Business Case Submission	All DCC Internal approvals complete. Full Business Case issued to the Department for review.	Y	N/A	21 Jun 2024
15	Data Systems – RFP, Stage 2 Complete	Preferred provider for each Lot has been selected.	N	N/A	26 Jul 2024
16	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Full Business Case	Non-objection to FBC confirmed by DESNZ.	Y	N/A	26 Jul 2024
17	FSM – Full Business Case Submission	All DCC Internal approvals complete. Full Business Case issued to the Department for review.	Y	N/A	30 Jul 2024
18	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Award Contract	Contract signed and awarded, commence vendor onboarding.	Y	01 Mar 2023	31 Jul 2024
19	Data Systems – RFP, Stage 3 Complete	Completion of final contractual arrangements for each Lot in advance of contract award.	N	N/A	23 Aug 2024
20	FSM – DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Full Business Case	Non-objection to FBC confirmed by DESNZ.	Y	N/A	30 Aug 2024
21	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme – Systems Integrator in place	System Integrator service is ready to support DSP Procurement and planning for Design, Build & Test.	Y	30 Aug 2023	30 Aug 2024
22	Data Systems – SEC Panel engagement completed prior to FBC	SEC Panel are updated and their views on the cost/benefit, the solution options considered by DCC, and the transition approach	Y	15 Sep 2023	30 Aug 2024

		are captured and considered before submission of the Full Business Case. SEC Panel and Panel Sub-Committee will be notified should the solution change at any point prior to this.			
23	FSM –Award Contract	Contract signed and awarded, commence vendor onboarding.	Y	N/A	02 Sep 2024
24	FSM - Control Point 1 (Contract Award)	DCC to consider whether a further LC13B consultation is required to update future milestones. If applicable, a request will be made to DESNZ.	Y	N/A	09 Sep 2024
25	Data Systems - Full Business Case (FBC) Submission	Delivery Full Business Case to DESNZ for non-objection.	Y	26 Nov 2023	13 Sep 2024
26	FSM -Proposed scope of regulatory change	DCC will issue a consultation conclusions document, which details the complete high-level regulatory change and the roadmap for future engagement on regulatory change drafting and implementation.	Y	N/A	20 Sep 2024
27	Data Systems – DESNZ decision on non-Objection to Full Business Case	Non-objection to last FBC confirmed DESNZ.	Y	N/A	18 Oct 2024
28	Data Systems – Contracts Award	Contracts signed and awarded, commence vendor onboarding for all 3 Lots.	N	14 Dec 2023	31 Oct 2024
29	Data Systems - Control Point 2¹ (Contract Award)	DCC to consider whether a further LC13B consultation is required to update future milestones. If applicable, a request will be made to DESNZ.	Y	28 Jul 2023	01 Nov 2024
30	Data Systems - Proposed scope of regulatory change	DCC will issue a consultation conclusions document, which details the complete high-level regulatory change and the roadmap for future engagement on regulatory change drafting and implementation.	Y	05 Sep 2022	30 Nov 2024
31	FSM – Control Point (Detailed Design)	DCC to consider whether a further LC13B consultation is required to update future milestones. If applicable, a request will be made to DESNZ.	Y	N/A	02 Dec 2024

¹ Data Systems - Control Point 1 Utilised during 2022.

32	Data Systems – PIT Entry	Latest possible date for PIT to start for all Service Providers.	Y	02 Jan 2024	08 Jan 2025
33	Data Systems – Control Point 3 (Detailed Design)	DCC to consider whether a further LC13B consultation is required to update future milestones. If applicable, a request will be made to DESNZ.	Y	N/A	15 Feb 2025
34	FSM – Confirmation of regulatory change	DCC will issue a conclusions document on the regulatory drafting changes needed for the DSP Programme along with conclusions on plans for implementation of those regulatory changes.	Y	N/A	30 Mar 2025
35	Data Systems Latest confirmation of regulatory change	Latest point DCC will issue a conclusions document on the regulatory drafting changes needed for the DSP Programme along with conclusions on plans for implementation of those regulatory changes.	Y	13 Oct 2023	31 Aug 2025
36	Data Systems – Design and Build Complete.	All SPs have completed all Design and Build activities.	N	N/A	08 Aug 2025
37	Data Systems – PIT Exit	Latest possible date for PIT completion decision for all SPs by the designated governance body as advised by DESNZ.	Y	30 May 2024	08 Sep 2025
38	Data Systems – SIT Entry	Latest possible date for SIT start for all SPs.	N	01 Jun 2024	29 Sep 2025
39	FSM - Go Live	All capabilities live.	Y	N/A	25 Oct 2025
40	Data Systems - SIT Exit	Latest possible date for SIT completion decision for all SPs by the designated governance body as advised by DESNZ.	Y	30 Nov 2024	21 Jun 2026
41	Data Systems - User Testing Start	Last point at which User Testing starts.	Y	01 Dec 2024	14 Jul 2026
42	Data Systems - User Testing Complete	Latest possible date for Window for user testing closed.	Y	28 Feb 2025	16 Sep 2026
43	Data Systems - SEC Panel – Submission of Go Live Services Criteria Document	SEC Panel to consider the evidence submitted by DCC against Go live service criteria and make a recommendation to DESNZ.	Y	14 Feb 2025	30 Sep 2026
44	Data Systems - Live Service Criteria: Go-live decision	Response from DESNZ for approval prior to deploying changes to Live systems, following SEC Panel recommendation.	Y	N/A	28 Oct 2026

45	Data Systems - Go Live	All capabilities live.	Y	28 Mar 2025	30 Oct 2026
46	DSP SI DBT Sub-Programme - Extend Enduring SI Decision	Latest Point at which DCC will make a decision on whether to exercise contractual options to extend scope of SI to include Enduring SI activities.	N	N/A	02 Nov 2026
47	Data Systems - Transition and Migration Start	Latest possible start of 1) transition from old system components to new system components, and 2) migration of Users and Smart Metering Systems to the new solution.	Y	07 Apr 2025	02 Nov 2026
48	Data Systems - Transition and Migration Complete	Transition from old system to new system complete and migration of Users and Smart Metering Systems to the new solution complete.	Y	30 Sep 2025	30 Oct 2027

Appendix D – LC13B Direction January 2021

127. On 29 January 2021 DCC was Directed in accordance with Condition 13B of the DCC Licence to produce an implementation plan for two elements of the ‘Network Evolution Arrangements’, including for DSP.
128. The Direction sets out the following requirements relating to the DSP Programme.
- i. Each plan must set out the activities which the Licensee (including its current or any future External Service Providers) will need to undertake, and the deliverables which the Licensee (including its current or any future External Service Providers) will need to produce in order to enable the Licensee to deliver the relevant element of the Network Evolution Arrangements.
 - ii. Each plan must set out descriptions, timelines and interim milestones with associated dates for these activities and deliverables of the Licensee (including its current or any future External Service Providers).
 - iii. Each plan must identify the key interactions (including, but not limited to, use of test environments and release into the production environment) with other changes that DCC is progressing in timescales that affect the introduction of the relevant element of the Network Evolution arrangements, which may include (but is not limited to) the interactions with business as usual operations and interactions between the two plans and other elements of the Network Evolution Arrangements.
 - iv. Each plan must identify activities, deliverables and events which are deemed as outside the control of the Licensee and its External Service Providers, and upon which the Licensee is dependent in order to deliver the relevant element of the Network Evolution Arrangements in accordance with the dates set out in the plan. Such dependencies may include policy decisions by the Secretary of State and Secretary of State modifications to the Smart Energy Code (and prior BEIS baselining of technical and regulatory documents, including at TBDG), as well as other dependent activities and deliverables of energy suppliers and other industry participants and bodies. The plan must identify the date by which each such dependency will need to be met in order to enable the Licensee to deliver the relevant element of the Network Evolution Arrangements in accordance with the dates set out in the plan.
 - v. Without limiting the generality of the above and taking account of lessons learnt by DCC to date, each plan must include details of engagement approaches envisaged, timelines and milestones for:
 - a. timely and effective industry engagement, including with DCC Users, Device manufacturers, consumer representative organisations and other SEC Parties and relevant wider stakeholders;
 - b. design, development, testing and build of software and hardware changes to the DCC systems and Communications Hubs, plus any associated User trialling and testing, device interoperability testing and deployment into live operations;
 - c. changes to the Smart Energy Code to be made by the Secretary of State, which are required to underpin the relevant element of the Network Evolution Arrangements; and
 - d. the development of the go live decision-making framework to support the changes going live (including, but not limited to, independent external audit reports and the involvement of SEC Panel and its sub-committees).
 - vi. Each plan must provide for reporting of progress against the plan monthly (and where requested by the Secretary of State, more frequently) to BEIS, and the Implementation

Managers Forum (IMF), and any other bodies specified from time to time by the Secretary of State for such purpose.

- vii. In developing each plan, DCC should take into account that each of these two elements of the Network Evolution Arrangements will require BEIS approval before the go live milestone in each plan is considered to have been met. BEIS will seek advice from the SEC Panel and its sub-committees in arriving at its approval decisions (as well as decisions on the testing documents and testing exit), and therefore the plan should cater for necessary timely and substantive engagement with the SEC Panel and its sub-committees to enable this. Similarly, the plan should also provide for earlier BEIS approval milestones where required, such as those required under Condition 16.6A of the DCC Licence, with timely and effective (including with reference to the quality of artefacts¹ used) engagement with the SEC Panel and its sub-committees to ensure that SEC Party business needs and views are clearly set out and taken into account in the information DCC provides to the Secretary of State pursuant to DCC Licence Condition 16B parts (a) and (b).
- viii. It is recognised that the element of the Network Evolution Arrangements relating to the ongoing provision of data services is at an earlier stage of development than the element relating to the use of newer forms of wireless communications technology. However, time is now relatively short to the end of the existing contract (even with extensions) and, as set out in the NAO based framework for DCC contract management and procurement performance, DCC readiness in good time ahead of contract end in line with an effective DCC commercial strategy is crucial. Accordingly, the plan related to data services must now set out descriptions, timelines and interim milestones with associated dates for such activities and deliverables at least up until the point of contract award for any new External Service Provider Contracts and/or any amendments to existing External Service Provider Contracts. The plan must also now set out, at a high-level, indicative timelines with associated dates and descriptions for such activities and deliverables following the point of contract award up until the relevant services going live.

¹ Such as project briefs, project initiation documents, business requirements documents and technical architecture documents.

Appendix E – LC13B Direction July 2023

129. On 24 July 2023 DCC was Directed in accordance with Condition 13B of the DCC Licence to produce and submit a plan to the Secretary of State for continuity of Data Services (DSP).
130. The Direction sets out the following requirements relating to the DSP Programme.

This direction is made for the purposes of the smart meter communication licences granted under the Electricity Act 1989 and the Gas Act 1986 (such licences being the ‘DCC Licence’). It concerns the DCC’s implementation plan for ensuring continuity in the provision of data services with respect to Smart Metering Systems, this being an element of the ‘Network Evolution Arrangements’.

Pursuant to Condition 13B.10 of the DCC Licence, the Secretary of State hereby directs the DCC to produce a new plan to replace the existing plan for the above-mentioned element of the Network Evolution Arrangements. The new plan must be prepared and submitted to the Secretary of State for approval by no later than 8 December 2023, and in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs 13B.3 and 13B.4 of the DCC Licence.

In terms of content, the new plan must meet requirements i – viii of the initial direction of 29 January 2021. The new plan must also show the critical path to delivery of this element of the Network Evolution Arrangements.

Words and expressions used in this direction shall be interpreted in accordance with the DCC Licence, and references to licence conditions are to conditions of the DCC Licence. Expressions beginning with capital letters that are not defined in the DCC Licence have the meanings given to them in the Smart Energy Code.