

Item	Task	Description	Estimated No. Months Required	External Dependencies
1	Review of UR Final Next Steps Paper	Review Utility Regulator's Next Steps Paper on the Introduction of Contestability and the draft work programme.	1	
2	Agree project funding arrangements	Establish estimates of project costs and agree mechanism for cost recovery.	1	UR
3	Develop Implementation Guidelines	Develop Implementation Guidelines to provide details of how the principles of contestability will be applied for Distribution connections. To include consideration as to how contestability can be introduced for connections already at pre-construction stage.	3	NIE UR Working Group
4	Develop Specifications for Publication	Current specifications and policies designed for NIE internal use will need to be re-drafted for publication on the NIE website.	8	NIE
5-8	Develop Market Processes for Contestable and non-contestable works	Develop market processes for registration, quotation, design approval, asset adoption, commissioning, interfaces, etc	5	NIE UR Working Group
9	Determine required changes to NIE systems and processes	Complete a gap analysis for NIE's internal systems, develop and implement a plan that fits with the timescale available.	3	NIE
10	Develop and implement IT system changes and manual workarounds	A fully contestable market will require a new or modified IT solution. Until that is in place NIE will support the contestable market by deploying manual workarounds.	4	NIE
11	Develop and implement licence condition modifications	Develop licence modifications consistent with a contestable market	4	UR
12	Establish legal and contractual frameworks	Review existing legal and contractual framework documents and modify as required. Develop Adoption Agreement.	4	NIE UR Working Group
13	Revise connection charge methodology	Complete a review of the impact on financial structures, cost allocation to contestable and non-contestable works. Develop a new connection charge methodology.	6	UR Public Consultation
14	Distribution Code review and update	Ensure Distribution Code remains fit for purpose in a contestable market. Draft proposals for necessary changes and present to the Distribution Code Review Panel. Public consultation and UR approval required.	5	UR Public Consultation

15	Planning Standards review and update	Ensure Planning standards remain fit for purpose in a contestable market. Draft changes as necessary. This may require public consultation and UR approval.	5	UR Public Consultation
16	Accreditation	Review the Lloyd's accreditation scheme and establish processes to manage developers' accreditation status.	7	NIE UR Working Group
17	Define market requirements for a suitable IT solution	The volume of new connections processed in a contestable market requires an IT solution to enable NIE to provide contestable and non-contestable quotations, support contestable market workflows and provide a communications channel for developers and customers.	2	NIE
18	IT Procurement	A procurement exercise will be necessary to identify the most cost effective IT solution for the market. This and future activities will require an appropriate funding mechanism. Procurement timeline is driven by OJEU requirements	9	NIE
19	Design, build and implement IT system	It is expected that a suitable solution will take at least 12 months to implement.	11	NIE

High level work plan		2015						2016						2017																		
Ref	Task	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	
1	Review UR Final Steps	■																														
2	Agree project funding arrangements		■																													
3	Develop implementation guidelines			■	■	■																										
4	Develop specifications for publication					■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
	Develop market processes for contestable works																															
5	Quotation offers					■	■	■	■																							
6	Asset adoption						■	■	■	■																						
	Develop revised processes for non-contestable works																															
7	Quotation offers					■	■	■	■	■	■																					
8	Construction						■	■	■	■	■	■																				
9	Determine required changes to NIE systems									■	■	■	■	■																		
10	Develop & implement manual workarounds												■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
11	Develop & implement licence condition mods								■	■	■	■	■	■																		
12	Establish legal and contractual frameworks												■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
13	Revise connection charge methodology																															
14	Distribution Code review and update						■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
15	Planning standards review and update																															
16	Accreditation			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■																		
17	Define market requirements for IT system																															
18	Procure IT system																															
19	Design, build and implement IT system																															

- NIE
- UR/NIE/Developers
- UR approval
- Public consultation
- NIE with UR dependency
- UR responsibility

Assumptions

- 1 The UR will finalise its next steps at the start of July
- 2 Given the volumes of connections to NIE's network a new or modified existing IT system will be required to support a fully contestable market
- 3 IT system requirements can only be defined when processes have been agreed by the market
- 4 This will necessitate manual workarounds by NIE to facilitate contestability, however there will be a limit on the number of contestable connections that can be facilitated
- 5 UR will agree suitable cost recovery mechanisms
- 6 NIE/UR/developers/SONI agree market processes in a timely fashion
- 7 The competitive electricity supply market processes are not impacted
- 8 NIE will work to the SONI plan for implementation of contestability in transmission

9 IT procurement timelines are consistent with OJEU requirements