

Interim Interoperability Option Timescales

This memo is intended to set out the potential timelines for implementation of the different options for interim interoperability arrangements, as discussed within DCG Subgroup 2.

From DCG Subgroup 2
 To DCG
 cc
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Introduction

This paper has been drafted for discussion at DCG Subgroup 2 within Phase 1a of the Ofgem/DECC Smart Metering Implementation Programme. It is intended to inform the DCG of the subgroup's views on the potential implementation timeframes for the different options for interim interoperability arrangements.

There have been a number of discussions on the practicality of implementation of any interim arrangements, both in terms of statutory instruments/mandating interim arrangements and the implications of procurement and implementation.

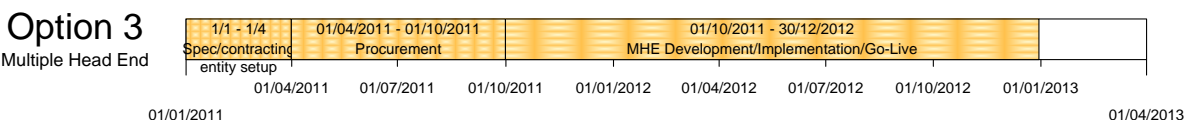
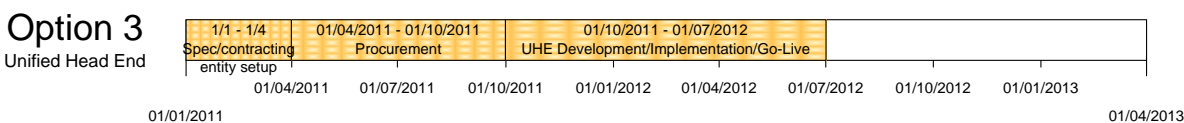
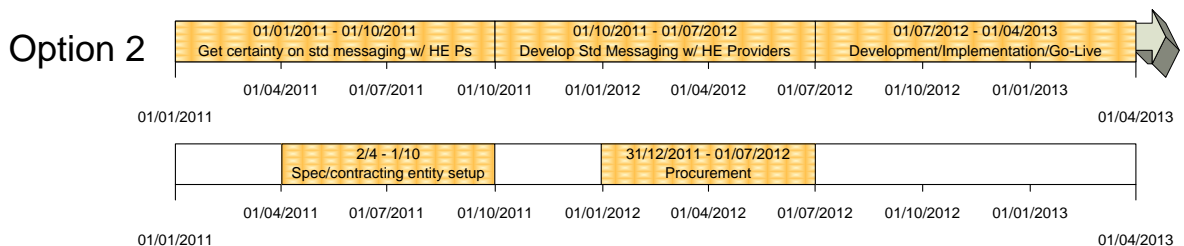
Implementation Timelines

The group have mapped out what the timeframes for implementation might look like for the different options for interim interoperability arrangements and how this might compare to the enduring DCC arrangements.

Options 1-3

For Options 1-3, there is a central service for interim arrangements, therefore there must be a contracting vehicle for a central service provider which needs to be established up front. We assume in our planning assumptions below that a specification for the service can be developed in parallel and that procurement activities can be completed in 6 months, in line with compressed OJEU timescales.

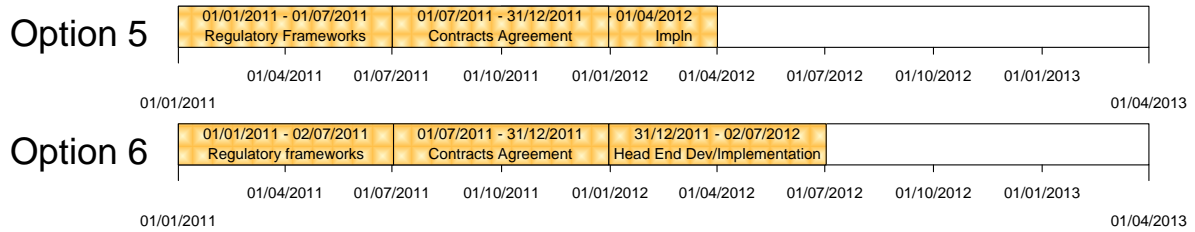
In the assessment of options, you will see below that the implications of standardising head end messaging has a significant impact on implementation timescales. Agreeing a common standard between the various Head End providers was seen as being extremely complex and difficult and if it was able to be delivered (which was questioned), it was seen as being a long process. **The assessment of implementation timescales would eliminate Option 2 as practical for IIA.**



Options 5 & 6

There is no central service for Options 5 & 6, therefore there is no need for a central body to be set up in advance. However, the regulatory framework was seen as more complex with the potential for wider changes to existing industry arrangements.

Option 6 was considered to have a longer timescale as there is a dependency on each supplier supporting all potential meters and head ends in the market to deliver true interoperability.



Issues

Presented as a simple list, and accepting that clarification of one or other of these (and the principles) could change the nature of individual issues significantly:

- 1.

Assumptions/Preconditions

- 1.

Dependencies

- 1.
- 2.