



# Strategic Objectives 2020

# Foreword

The Single Electricity Market is the cornerstone for electricity across the island of Ireland. Worth over €2.2bn, it is the market in which electricity is traded and secured for the delivery of power to homes and consumers. In October 2018 we welcomed the introduction of new market arrangements which delivered the most significant changes to the market since it was originally introduced in 2007. In its first two years of trading, we have seen the market deliver on its design as a successful, competitive market delivering real benefits to consumers across the island of Ireland.

Energy markets worldwide are also undergoing revolutionary change. The commitment to zero carbon economies has resulted in ambitious targets for energy across Europe. This vision is supported by and reflected in the Corporate Strategies of both the CRU and UR as they guide their respective jurisdictions through this energy transition.

The principal objective of the SEM Committee is to protect the consumers of electricity on the island of Ireland. This includes not just the consumers of today, but those in the future who will rely on this essential service. It is clear that de-carbonising at the lowest cost goes in tandem with enabling competition, innovation and protecting the interests of consumers today and tomorrow. We must stay ahead of consumer expectations and anticipate the changes that are required to deliver for the future. We must ensure our markets can adapt to the changes, needs and expectations of consumers while ensuring costs remain as low as possible and security of supply maintained.

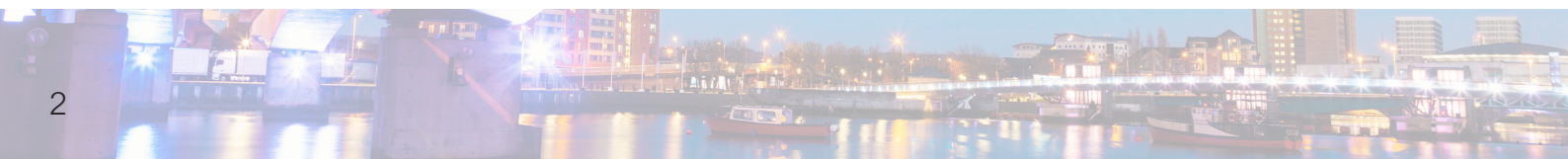
Significant challenges lie ahead but these come hand in hand with opportunities for our wholesale electricity market. We as a Committee, along with the support of the Regulatory Authorities and government departments, are ready to do what is necessary to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness and sustainability of our wholesale market to deliver the results needed to protect the interests of all consumers. We also welcome and support innovation and new ideas. We expect market participants to contribute proactively to the development of the market - bring forward suggestions of new and innovative ways of working, as well as addressing known issues to ensure the market runs as effectively as possible.

All of this can only be achieved by working collaboratively. Government, regulators, market participants, stakeholders and consumers all have their roles to play in driving change and working towards the shared goal. We, along with the RAs, are just part of that wider community of organisations who collectively deliver an efficient and effective market to work in the best interests of consumers.

We need to be agile and adapt to emerging opportunities and challenges alike. We need to harness and maximise the resources we have and ensure our people work together to a shared goal.

The traditional aspects of regulation also play a key role and must not be forgotten. To effectively protect consumers we must continue to ensure compliance, effectively monitor the market and scrutinise market performance and behaviour. We must stay agile, responsive and flexible in a rapidly changing environment. We will support our regulatory colleagues in delivering these functions, providing support and direction.

Through this strategy we set the direction and our vision for the wholesale electricity market going forward. We also outline our mission, vision and values. The tools we will use to help us achieve these objectives.



## Who we are

The SEM Committee is the decision making authority for all Single Electricity Market matters. Established in 2007 following the introduction of the SEM, legislation required the establishment of SEM governance in the form of a SEM Committee.

We consist of three Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) and three Utility Regulator (UR) representatives along with an independent and a deputy independent member appointed jointly by the Department for the Economy and Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. In 2014 the CRU and UR signed a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines how the two organisations will maintain and facilitate effective and beneficial co-operation and collaboration. This signifies the ongoing commitment of both regulatory authorities to work together to ensure the effective delivery of both joint and separate statutory remits and for the customers of the energy and water sectors they regulate. This positive working relationship continues today to ensure that the wholesale electricity market on the island of Ireland operates in the best interest of consumers

In delivering our strategic objectives, we will lead the teams across the RAs to deliver the workplans that will seek to achieve our strategic objectives.

The RAs teams are broadly structured across the areas of:

- Market modelling
- Market monitoring
- Capacity remuneration mechanism
- Market operation
- Audit
- European relations
- System Services

Corporate support is also provided for communications, procurement, legal and administrative matters to ensure we are able to discharge our duties effectively.

The teams are guided by the Oversight Committee, led by the Director of Wholesale Markets in the UR and Director of Energy Markets in the CRU. The Oversight Committee supports us in the delivery of our Strategic Objectives and leads in the delivery of the workplans that flow from it.



# Our mission, vision and values

Before we take a closer look at our objectives, we set out on our mission vision and values, all of which will be the driving tools in delivering our strategic objectives.

These set out not only what we hope to achieve but the way in which we will achieve it. It underpins how we will work with government departments, market participants and our stakeholders to help deliver our goals. It helps determine our priorities and reflects our duty to protect consumers in the SEM.

## Our Mission

Protecting consumers in the SEM

## Our Vision

An efficient, competitive and sustainable electricity market that delivers for electricity consumers in NI and Ireland today and tomorrow

## Our Values

- Accountability
- Openness
- Transparency
- Professionalism

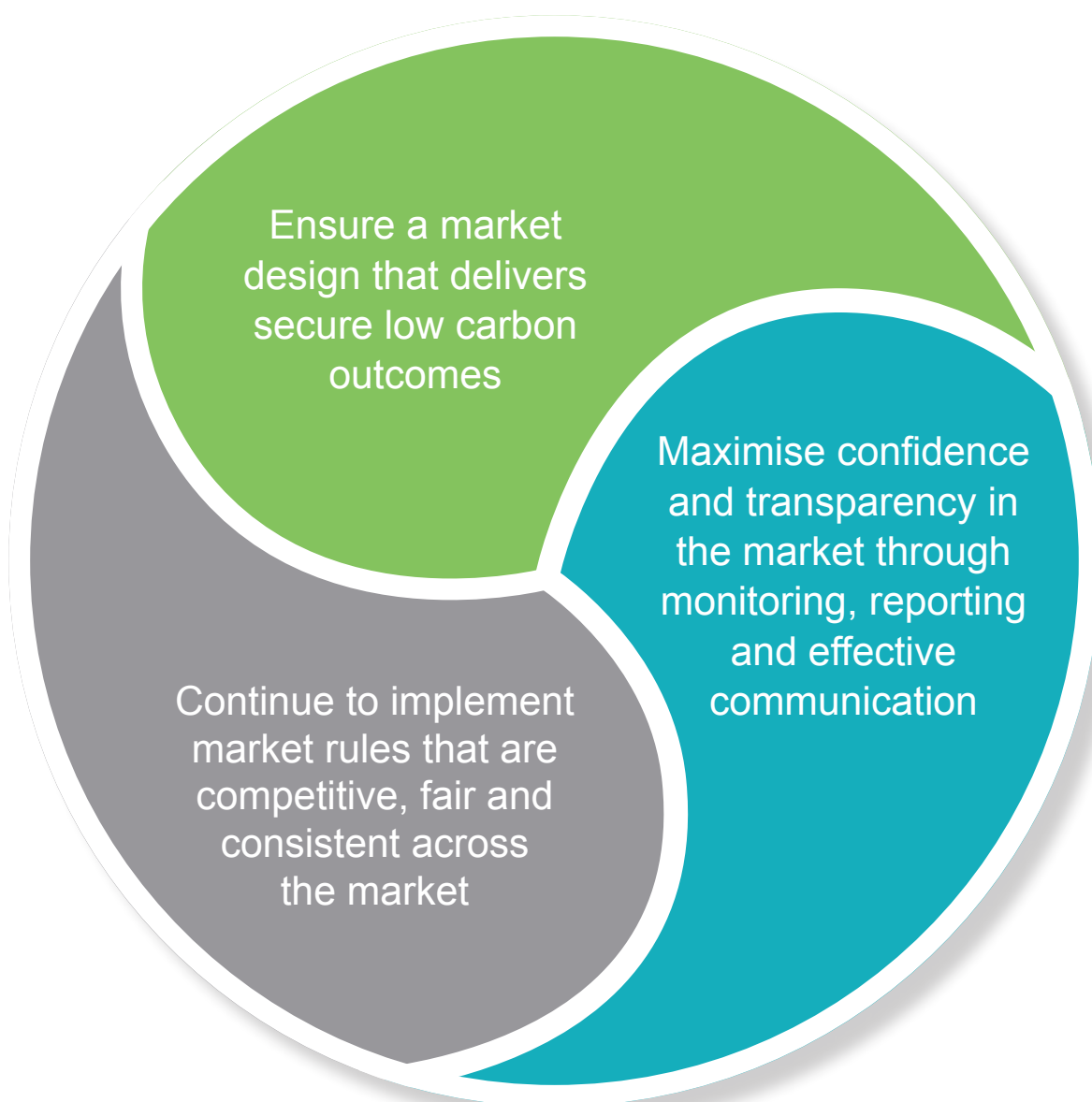


# Our Strategic Objectives

This strategic plan sets out our overarching priorities that deliver our statutory objectives.

We will build on the success of the competitive market arrangements that we put in place in October 2018 and continue to deliver real benefits for consumers. We will deliver these objectives in parallel and support of the UR and CRU corporate strategy documents and with a renewed focus on how we communicate.

Our forward work programmes will reflect our objectives and support fairness and competition. We will work in a co-ordinated manner to deliver the best outcome for consumers and work with stakeholders to that shared goal.





**Commission for Regulation of Utilities**

The Exchange  
Belgard Square North  
Tallaght  
D24 PXW0  
[info@cru.ie](mailto:info@cru.ie)

**Utility Regulator**

Queens House  
14 Queen Street  
Belfast  
BT1 6ED  
[info@uregni.gov.uk](mailto:info@uregni.gov.uk)