Meeting Session	Panel (Open Session)
Paper Reference	Panel_2026_1021_08_CACoP Forum Headline Report
Action	For Information

Code Administrators Code of Practice (CACoP) Forum Headline Report

1. Synopsis

1.1 This report sets out the key headlines from the CACoP Forum meeting held on 22 September 2026 via Microsoft Teams.

2. Workplan Update

CACoP Principles

2.1 Members undertook a final review of the draft Version 7 of the CACoP Principles ahead of submission to Ofgem. The review reflected previous discussions regarding updates to the list of Code Administrators and the introduction of Principles 17 and 18.

2.2 The Forum discussed Principle 12 and reaffirmed its previously agreed position that the CACoP Stakeholder Survey should continue to be undertaken on a biennial basis. Members noted that an annual survey could place an unnecessary burden on stakeholders given the volume of industry change currently underway.

2.3 Members also reviewed Principles 17 and 18, which relate to data best practice arrangements. Clarification was provided regarding the status of the associated guidance and members noted that the guidance is already available and aligns with wider industry data best practice initiatives. No amendments were proposed following discussion.

2.4 Following discussion, the Forum approved the updated CACoP Principles for submission to Ofgem and noted that modification prioritisation may be considered as part of a future review.

Terms of Reference

2.5 Members reviewed the CACoP Forum Terms of Reference and revisited the proposal to remove references to the Horizon Scanner. Usage information confirmed that engagement with the Horizon Scanner remained extremely limited and that the resource had not been updated for several years.

2.6 The Forum unanimously supported the removal of the Horizon Scanner reference and agreed that it no longer provided sufficient value to justify its continued inclusion within the Terms of Reference.

2.7 Members also considered whether additional wording should be introduced regarding stakeholder engagement and CACoP-managed surveys. Following discussion, it was agreed that the existing high-level wording should be retained to preserve flexibility as future code governance arrangements continue to develop.

2.8 The revised Terms of Reference, incorporating the removal of the Horizon Scanner reference, were approved by the Forum. Members also noted that the Terms of Reference are self-governed and do not require formal Ofgem approval.

CACoP Stakeholder Survey

2.9 Members received an update on participation in the 2026 CACoP Stakeholder Survey. At the time of the meeting, 39 responses had been received across a range of industry codes, representing a stronger response rate than the previous survey. The Forum noted that no responses had yet been received in relation to the Distribution Code or SEC. Members discussed possible reasons for lower participation levels, including survey fatigue arising from other stakeholder engagement activities.

2.10 Members were advised that the survey would close on 2 October 2026 and that the responses would be collated and discussed at the next meeting

3. Ofgem Update

Second Preliminary Strategic Direction Statement (SDS2)

3.1 Ofgem provided an update on publication of the Second Preliminary Strategic Direction Statement (SDS2), which was issued on 15 September 2026 following consultation earlier in the year. Members were advised that SDS2 will become the first Strategic Direction Statement that future Code Managers will be required to consider when developing their delivery plans.

3.2 Ofgem also confirmed that SDS2 should now be used when applying the harmonised approach to code modification prioritisation and that Code Administrators and Panels will be expected to demonstrate how the Statement has been considered when making prioritisation decisions.

Energy Code Reform

3.3 The Forum received an update on a number of recent Energy Code Reform publications. Members were advised that Ofgem had published a statutory consultation relating to modifications required to support implementation of the new governance framework and prepare the REC for designation under the Code Manager licensing framework.

3.4 Members also noted publication of a further statutory consultation regarding proposed modifications to the BSC and REC Code Manager licences, including arrangements relating to budgets, delivery plans, performance frameworks and transitional governance responsibilities.

3.5 Ofgem also highlighted publication of its decision on Phase 1 transitional measures and code changes, confirming its intention to progress proposals associated with BSC and REC Code Manager licensing arrangements and related transitional provisions.

4. Date of Next Meeting

4.1 The next CACoP Forum meeting will be held on 20 October 2026.

5. Actions

5.1 The DCUSA Panel is invited to:

- **NOTE** the contents of this paper.

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