**THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:**

1. A method for performing a service request procedure, the method comprising:

receiving, from user equipment (UE), a protocol data unit (PDU) session establishment request message, the PDU session establishment request message configured to indicate a request to establish a PDU session, the PDU session establishment request message comprising an always-on PDU session requested information element (IE), the always-on PDU session requested IE set to a value indicative of a request to establish the PDU session as an always-on PDU session; and

in an instance in which the always-on PDU session requested IE is set to the value indicative of the request to establish the always-on PDU session, determining, based on local policies or configurations whether to establish the requested PDU session as an always-on PDU session.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

upon determining to establish the requested PDU session as an always-on PDU session, causing transmission of a PDU session establishment accept message towards the UE, the PDU session establishment accept message comprising an always-on PDU session indication IE, wherein the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of "Always-on PDU session required".

3. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

upon determining not to establish the requested PDU session as an always-on PDU session, causing transmission of a PDU session establishment accept message towards the UE, the PDU session establishment accept message comprising:

an always-on PDU session indication IE, wherein the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of "Always-on PDU session not allowed", if the UE included the always-on PDU session requested IE in the PDU session establishment request message.

4. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising:

upon an inter-system change from N1 mode to S1 mode, maintaining the always-on PDU session indication.

5. The method according to Claim 4, further comprising:

upon an inter-system change from S1 mode to N1 mode, determining, based on the always-on PDU session indication, whether the PDU session transferred from Evolved Packed System (EPS) is an always-on PDU session.

6. An apparatus for performing a service request procedure, the apparatus comprising at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to carry out the method of any one of claims 1-5.

7. A computer program product for performing a service request procedure, the computer program product comprising at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable program code instructions stored therein, the computer-executable program code instructions comprising program code instructions for carrying out the method of any one of claims 1-5.

8. A method comprising:

including an always-on protocol data unit (PDU) session requested information element (IE) in a PDU session establishment request message configured to indicate a request to establish a PDU session;

setting the always-on PDU session requested IE in the PDU session establishment request message to a value indicative of a request to establish the PDU session as an always-on PDU session;

causing transmission of the PDU session establishment request message; and

receiving a PDU session establishment accept message comprising an always-on PDU session indication IE, wherein the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value

indicative of “Always-on PDU session required” or to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session not allowed”.

9. The method according to Claim 8, further comprising:

in an instance in which the always-on PDU session indication IE is included in the PDU session establishment accept message, and the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session required”, considering the established PDU session as an always-on PDU session.

10. The method according to Claim 8, further comprising:

in an instance in which the always-on PDU session indication IE is included in the PDU session establishment accept message, and the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session not allowed”, not considering the established PDU session as an always-on PDU session.

11. An apparatus comprising at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to carry out the method of any one of claims 8-10.

12. A computer program product comprising at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable program code instructions stored therein, the computer-executable program code instructions comprising program code instructions for carrying out the method of any one of claims 8-10.

13. A method comprising:

receiving, from user equipment (UE), a protocol data unit (PDU) session modification request message, the PDU session modification request message configured to indicate a request to modify a PDU session corresponding to a PDN connection established when in S1 mode, after the first inter-system change from S1 mode to N1 mode, the PDU session modification request message comprising an information element (IE) set to a value indicative of a request for the PDU session to be an always-on protocol data unit (PDU) session; and

based on local policies or configurations in a session management function (SMF) and, in an instance in which the always-on PDU session requested IE is available, the always-on PDU session requested IE, determining whether to modify the requested PDU session to be an always-on PDU session.

14. The method according to Claim 13, wherein

in an instance in which an outcome of said determining is determining to modify the requested PDU session to be an always-on PDU session, the method further comprises:

causing transmission of a PDU session modification command message, the PDU session modification command message comprising an always-on PDU session indication IE, wherein the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of "Always-on PDU session required".

15. The method according to Claim 13, wherein

in an instance in which an outcome of said determining is determining not to modify the requested PDU session to be an always-on PDU session, the method further comprises:

causing transmission of a PDU session modification command message, the PDU session modification command message comprising:

an always-on PDU session indication IE, wherein the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of "Always-on PDU session not allowed", if the UE included the always-on PDU session requested IE in the PDU session establishment request message; or

no always-on PDU session indication IE, if the UE did not include the always-on PDU session requested IE in the PDU session establishment request message.

16. The method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

upon an inter-system change from S1 mode to N1 mode, determining, based on the local policies or configuration in the SMF, whether the requested PDU session need to be an always-on PDU session; and

upon a determination that the requested PDU session needs to be an always-on PDU session, setting the always-on PDU session indication IE included in the PDU session modification command message to a value indicative of "Always-on PDU session required".

17. The method according to Claim 13, further comprising:

upon an inter-system change from S1 mode to N1 mode, determining, based on the local policies or configuration in the SMF, whether the requested PDU session needs to be an always-on PDU session; and

upon a determination that the requested PDU session need not to be an always-on PDU session, setting the always-on PDU session indication IE included in the PDU session modification command message to a value indicative of "Always-on PDU session not allowed".

18. An apparatus comprising at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to carry out the method of any one of claims 13-17.

19. A computer program product comprising at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable program code instructions stored therein, the computer-executable program code instructions comprising program code instructions for carrying out the method of any one of claims 13-17.

20. A method comprising:

including into a protocol data unit (PDU) session modification request message, an information element (IE) configured to indicate a request for the PDU session to be modified to be an always-on PDU session, the PDU session corresponding to a packet data network (PDN) connection established when in S1 mode, after the first inter-system change from S1 mode to N1 mode;

setting the IE in the PDU session modification request message to a value indicative of the request for the PDU session to be modified to be an always-on PDU session;

causing transmission of the PDU session modification request message; and

receiving a PDU session modification command message comprising an always-on PDU session indication IE, wherein the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session required” or to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session not allowed”.

21. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

in an instance in which the always-on PDU session indication IE is included in the PDU session modification command message, and the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session required”, considering the PDU session as an always-on PDU session.

22. The method according to Claim 20, further comprising:

in an instance in which the always-on PDU session indication IE is included in the PDU session modification command message, and the always-on PDU session indication IE is set to a value indicative of “Always-on PDU session not allowed”, not considering the PDU session as an always-on PDU session.

23. An apparatus comprising at least one processor and at least one memory including computer program code, the at least one memory and the computer program code configured to, with the processor, cause the apparatus to carry out the method of any one of claims 20-22.

24. A computer program product comprising at least one non-transitory computer-readable storage medium having computer-executable program code instructions stored therein, the computer-executable program code instructions comprising program code instructions for carrying out the method of any one of claims 20-22.