



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) Meeting, 22nd August 2018

The Chairman and following members of the Committee were present: David Blakemore (Chair), Alice Maynard, Jenny Saunders, Liz Bisset, Lawrence Slade and Paul Massara. BEIS colleagues from the Private Rented Sector attended for a discussion on minimum energy efficiency standards. Representatives of Energy Saving Trust also attended for a discussion on Home Energy Efficiency Schemes in Scotland. Also, from BEIS, the Sponsor and Secretariat were present.

Minutes of last meeting and actions

1. The minutes of the meeting on 11 July were approved and were subsequently [published](#) on the CFP web pages on 25 September.
3. The majority of actions from the last meeting had been completed and members were content that remaining actions were being progressed.

Members' Interests

4. No potential conflicts of interest specific to the meeting's agenda were declared.

Domestic Private Rented Sector summary of responses

5. Members noted that the summary of responses had been published on 26 July. They discussed possible ways of enforcement to ensure that landlords of F&G properties improve the energy efficiency standards according to the requirements.

Government Response to Energy Company Obligation (ECO 3) 2018- 2022 consultation

6. Members discussed the Government response to the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), ECO 3 2018-2022 consultation.

Members were concerned that their advice to improve the focus of the current ECO Transition programme on Low Income High Cost fuel poor households had not been followed. They noted that ECO3 would be focused on low income and vulnerable households.

2020 Band E Milestone

7. Members discussed meeting the 2020 Band E milestone

Provisional estimates prepared by the committee showed that, given the design of the ECO3 programme and the proposed amendments to the PRS regulations, only

about 50% of the fuel poor Band F/G homes existing at the time of writing the fuel poverty strategy, would have been upgraded to Band E by 2020. The committee decided to recommend that additional programmes were required in order to meet the 2020 Band E milestone and a discussion took place about possible designs.

Annual Report

8. Members discussed the scope of their upcoming Annual Report for 2018 and areas to focus on. This included the commitments made in the Clean Growth Strategy, Warm Home Discount, ECO and PRS policy developments, and findings from their research on tackling fuel poverty, reducing carbon emission, and keeping household bills down. Other areas to be referenced included implementation of the fuel poverty strategy and progress made towards the fuel poverty targets. It was noted this would need to take account of findings from the annual fuel poverty statistics and churn of households moving in and out fuel poverty.

Energy Saving Trust –Scottish schemes.

9. Representatives of Energy Saving Trust presented an overview and findings of the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes (HEEPS) Equity Loan Scheme in Scotland. The programme was trialled in three areas in Scotland last year. The scheme offers equity release funding to vulnerable and low income homeowners to enable them to upgrade the energy efficiency of their homes and carry out necessary repairs. It operates in a similar way to a home equity scheme, but Scottish government takes a percentage equity stake in the total value of the property, and homeowners are not required to make ongoing loan repayments. The scheme is still in it's very early stages, but findings have shown the scheme is proving popular and it has this year expanded to a further five areas in Scotland. The committee were very appreciative of EST sharing their experience.

Other discussion

10. Members also:

- discussed the potential scope for a research project for 2018/19;
- discussed recent and forthcoming stakeholder engagement;

Dates of future CFP Meetings

11. Dates for forthcoming meetings are:

- 13th September 2018
- 7th November 2018