



## Committee on Fuel Poverty

### **Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) Meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> September 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 Analytical team attended for a discussion around putting an economic value on the health benefits from addressing fuel poverty. Representatives of National Energy Action also attended for a discussion on their Technical Innovation Fund. Also, from BEIS, the Sponsor and Secretariat were present.

#### Minutes of last meeting and actions

1. The minutes of the meeting on 22 August were approved and were subsequently [published](#) on the CFP web pages on 25 September.
2. The majority of actions from the last meeting had been completed and members were content that remaining actions were being progressed.

#### Members' Interests

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

#### Impacts of addressing Fuel Poverty on Health

4. Members discussed the wider impacts of fuel poverty on health. An official from the BEIS analytical team provided an overview of planned work to understand the health impacts of living in cold homes. The project aims to quantify any link between cold homes and visits to hospital from households in England. The project will examine if people living in underheated homes require more hospital care compared to similar households who heat their homes to adequate temperatures. The project aims to link household level data from BEIS, DWP and NHS digital to establish whether there is a link between vulnerable and low income homes that use less heating energy than required for the size of property and the frequency of hospital visits and explore ways to quantify the difference.

#### Government Response to Warm Home Discount consultation

5. Members noted the government response to the Warm Home Discount consultation and proposals of using powers within the Digital Economy Act to target the scheme more accurately at households at risk of fuel poverty.

## Annual Report

6. Members discussed the content and format for their upcoming Annual Report and reflected on further areas to focus on. This included future reform of Warm Home Discount, design of ECO3, and mechanisms to better target support for fuel poor households. Other areas to be reflected included third party financing and additional funding to meet the 2020/5 Band E milestones and 2030 target.

7. Members also discussed timings and launch plans for the Report.

## National Energy Action: Findings from Technical Innovation Fund

8. Representatives from National Energy Action presented an overview and findings from their Technical Innovation Fund. This was part of the Innovation Programme provided funding to partner agencies to install a variety of innovative technologies in fuel poor homes. Up to £5.1 million was made available through the fund to cover the capital and installation costs for a range of large and small scale energy efficiency technologies such as heat pumps, air pumps, energy storage batteries and heating controls. The aim of the project was to reduce the cost of heating addressing the underlying causes and symptoms of fuel poverty. NEA evaluated 21 technologies and 64 products across 46 funded projects within England and Wales establishing any impact on household energy costs, comfort levels, and gauging the social acceptability and controllability of the technology.

9. In total, some 2,202 households benefitted from at least one measure to improve the energy efficiency of their home. The programme targeted low income and fuel poor households, with 41% of residents were over the age of 65; and 60% having a combined household income of under £16,010. 55% of residents were occupying rented accommodation.

10. TIF provides us with a rich dataset to consider how fuel poor households can be better built into the design of innovative technologies and how consumer engagement should be more effectively delivered to maximise on the potential benefits and positive outcomes stimulated by innovation.

## Other discussion

9. Members also:

- discussed the approvals process for their proposed research project ;
- discussed recent and forthcoming stakeholder engagement;
- potential dates for future CFP meetings;
- possible dates to meet with Minister Claire Perry to discuss their 2018 Annual Report recommendations

## Next CFP Meeting

10. Next meeting is:

- 7<sup>th</sup> November 2018