



## Committee on Fuel Poverty

### **Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) Meeting, 11 April 2019**

The Chair and all members of the Committee were present: David Blakemore (Chair), Jenny Saunders, Liz Bisset, Paul Massara, and Lawrence Slade. Officials from the BEIS Fuel Poverty Strategy Team attended for a discussion on the review of the Fuel Poverty Strategy, as well as BEIS analysts to discuss the fuel poverty metric methodology. The BEIS Sponsor team and Secretariat were also present.

#### Minutes of last meeting and actions

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2019 were approved and subsequently [published](#) on the CFP web pages.
2. The majority of actions from the last meeting had been completed, and remaining actions were being progressed.

#### Members' Interests

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

#### Progress on CFP's Annual Report's 19 Recommendations

4. Chair and Members discussed the priority work strands assigned to progress the 19 recommendations from the CFP's [2018 Annual Report](#).
5. Members were presented with an internet search paper on low-income and non-benefit claimants to inform the work on targeting and proxies for reaching the fuel poor.
6. Members reported on their engagement with stakeholders.

#### CFP Forward Look

7. Communications Planning: Members discussed future meetings with key stakeholders including Ofgem, Citizens Advice and National Energy Action. Members agreed to invite and continue to engage with a selection of key stakeholders and to invite lead officials to future CFP meetings.

#### CFP's Clean Growth Challenge Fund Proposal

8. Following the Chair's discussions of the Committee's proposal with the

Minister, the document will be shared via the CFP webpage. Members reported that key stakeholders are supportive of the Challenge Fund.

#### Update on 2019 Fuel Poverty Strategy and consultation exercise

9. BEIS officials gave an update on the upcoming Fuel Poverty Consultation which is planned for the summer. The consultation outcome will feed into the development of the update to the Fuel Poverty Strategy proposed for later this year. CFP will respond to the consultation.

10. BEIS Statisticians presented further details and answered Members questions on proposals to update the Fuel Poverty metric. This is expected to form part of the fuel poverty consultation.

#### Update RSM research – PRS Enforcements

11. RSM research were commissioned by the CFP to look into the Private Rented Sector enforcement of regulations. The Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) came into effect in 2018 with the aim of improving private rented housing to at least an E rating wherever possible. The research looked into the question: **“To achieve the housing stock improvement and reduction in fuel poverty sought from the new Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards, what alternative enforcement models could be adopted and how might they work?”**

12. A final report is due in May, and RSM will present to Members at the next CFP meeting scheduled for 9 May.

13. Following the RSM research presentation, the report will be disseminated through key stakeholders, including the BEIS PRS team, and published on the CFP webpage.

#### Ideas for 2019 Research Projects

14. Members discussed several new areas of research that could be taken forward and agreed to draft and submit proposals for deliberation at the next meeting. Members will then agree and select one or two proposals to pursue.

#### AOB

15. Further consideration will be given to BEIS heat strategy transformation options at future meetings. The aim is to ensure that fuel poverty forms a key consideration in the development and progression of the decarbonisation heat agenda.

#### Other discussions

16. Members also:

- discussed communications planning and correspondence;

- reviewed future meeting dates and content for invitations to key stakeholders to future CFP meetings.

Next CFP Meetings:

17. Next meetings currently scheduled for 2019 are:

- 9 May
- 24 July
- 26 September
- 13 November