



## Committee on Fuel Poverty

### **Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) Meeting, 26 September 2019**

Committee Members: David Blakemore (Chair), Jenny Saunders, Liz Bisset, Paul Massara, Anu Singh and Lawrence Slade. BIES Sponsor and Secretariat were also present as well as BEIS analyst and BEIS Fuel Poverty Strategy Team.

#### Minutes of last meeting and actions

1. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 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 are being progressed.

#### Members' Interests

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

#### NEA Conference Update

4. Liz, Anu and Jenny attended the NEA Conference. Liz sat on NEA's Panel on ***Funding and delivering energy efficient homes***, where she summarised CFP's key points: that the 2020 milestone is likely to be missed; and that the future strategy will need a revised timetable and be costed, with additional metrics on Net Zero, Health and Social Care, and energy markets.
5. Liz also ran an afternoon session, presenting and taking questions on CFP's latest commissioned research into the Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) regulations, ***[Enforcing regulations to enhance energy efficiency in the private rented sector](#)***, and CFP Recommendations arising from this research.

#### CFP's Commissioned Research: Better use of data and advanced statistics/machine learning in delivering benefits to fuel poor

6. BEIS Analyst and Fuel Poverty Strategy Team outlined progress of the CFP's commissioned research. Next steps will be getting the project cleared for procuring out to bidders this year (November), with a contractor selected by early December.
7. Members suggested that some Local Authorities and Health Trust bodies are good examples of using AI/machine learning data sets to deliver support to those in need. It was agreed that once a successful researcher(s) had been contracted, they would consult members to utilise these local networks to feed into the project.

## Committee on Climate Change

8. The Chair and Paul Massara met with the Committee on Climate Change (CCC) in early October for informal talks around how to improve alignment between actions to deliver the Clean Growth Strategy, Fuel Poverty Strategy and Carbon Budgets. Attendees included: CCC's Chief Executive, Chris Stark and Jenny Hill, Head of Buildings, Industry and Bioenergy, as well as BEIS' Director of Energy Efficiency and Local, and Deputy Director of Warm Homes.

## Net Zero: What it could mean to the fuel poor

9. Members discussed how the transition to Net Zero would impact the fuel poor. Suggestions were made that installing energy efficiency measures in fuel poor homes still remains the most effective way of helping those in fuel poverty, but that additional measures to reduce carbon emissions from fuel poor homes will need to be integrated into the delivery of the fuel poverty strategy target of Band C by 2030.

10. It was suggested that as stated by the CCC, there is a need to ensure that costs and benefits from Net Zero are fairly distributed, so as to achieve a "just transition" to low-carbon energy.

## CFP's Interim Report: Priority Areas, Timing, Structure

11. Given the current Government Consultation on revising the fuel poverty strategy for England, the Committee decided to delay issuing a 2019 Annual Report. The Committee agreed to publish an interim report in early October and discussed the various strategies for this Interim Report. The timeline for publication with an accompanying roll-out to Government Ministers, and stakeholders was also agreed.

12. It was noted that social justice and health play a major part in fuel poverty and would be one of the key priorities in the Interim Report. Members agreed that closer links with the health sector need to be made, and that key officials in the NHS and/or Public Health England would be invited to the next CFP meeting.

## CFP's Annual Report: Timeline and Content for 2020

13. The Committee discussed timeline and content for publication of their next Annual Report for 2020, which would be discussed further at the next meeting.

## Future Meetings

14. Meetings currently scheduled for 2019 are:

- 26 November
- Secretariat will commence canvassing dates for 2020 meetings.