



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) virtual meeting: January 20/01/2021

1. The Chair and all members of the Committee were present: David Blakemore (Chair), Liz Bisset, Paul Massara, Lawrence Slade, Jenny Saunders and Anu Singh. Invited guests in attendance were the Climate Change Committee, the BEIS sponsor, BEIS officials and the CFP Secretariat.

Members Interests

2. No new interests declared.

Minutes of Last Meeting and actions

3. Minutes from December meeting were agreed.

Action Log

4. Most actions from the last meeting had been completed and the rest were being progressed.

Stakeholder Engagement

5. The Committee discussed recent engagement with external stakeholders, including a meeting with the Chief Executive of Energy Action Scotland to discuss the impact of decarbonisation on energy bills.

BEIS Policy Update

6. BEIS officials gave an overview of the new organisational structure within BEIS. Minister Kwarteng is now Secretary of State and Lord Callanan will be responsible for energy efficiency matters and fuel poverty. The Committee were also updated on the forthcoming Fuel Poverty Strategy for England.

7. BEIS officials gave an update on the voucher delivery aspect of Green Homes Grant and on the progress of delivery of Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.



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8. BEIS officials gave an update on the [Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency standards](#) consultation. The Committee welcomed the update and reiterated the importance of the standards in reaching the fuel poverty target.

9. The Committee discussed the funding available for the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the scale of action required to address fuel poverty in the social housing sector.

Improving Home Energy Through Lenders Consultation – CFP Response

10. The Committee considered the consultation on [Improving Home Energy Through Lenders](#) and the potential implications on fuel poor households.

11. Members discussed the risk to low-income households who may already have a low EPC rating on their properties. The point was raised that it might make it more difficult for them to move to a new home or may put pressure to take on additional borrowing which they cannot afford. The Committee agreed on the need for a response to the consultation with particular attention paid to unintended consequences for fuel poor households.

Recruiting new CFP members

12. The Committee discussed the need to ensure continuity in recruiting new members. A discussion took place on the expertise required for new Committee members.

13. David gave an update on the status of the Committee's research project - 'Ensuring that low income and fuel poor households are not disadvantaged by the move to using low/no carbon fuels for domestic energy needs' and the tight timeline of the original call for bids. The decision was taken not to go out to tender until the budget for the next financial year was approved.

Climate Change Committee presentation

14. Representatives from the Climate Change Committee presented on their [Sixth Carbon Budget report](#). Discussion focused on how to achieve the fuel poverty strategy alongside decarbonising heat.



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15. The Committee discussed the analysis which underpins the CCC's work with particular attention paid to the energy savings assumptions of different types of insulation. The Committee discussed the merits of solid wall insulation and that in some properties it would not be preferable to install due to the physical characteristics of those buildings.

16. Members discussed the likely increase in fixed costs on fuel bills as heat is decarbonised and the impact on fuel poor households.

Discussion on CFP initial position to CCC 6th Carbon Budget

17. The Committee discussed the cultural shift needed to implement the technology needed to reach net zero.

18. A point was raised on the planning considerations needed for implementing energy efficiency measures such as external wall insulation or a ground source heat pump.

19. Moving forward, the Committee expressed interest in working with the Climate Change Committee on an Impact Assessment of the cost of moving to net zero on fuel poor households.

Forward Look

20. The Committee discussed upcoming priorities and considered future engagement with stakeholders, including the BEIS Permanent Secretary.

AOB

21. Forthcoming CFP meetings scheduled are:

- Thursday 11 March 2021
- Tuesday 18 May 2021
- Monday 19 July 2021