



# Committee on Fuel Poverty

## **Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) virtual meeting: March 11/03/2021**

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 HMT, 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 January 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 stakeholders, including a meeting with the Warm Home Discount team on the use of data and targeting.

6. The Committee also discussed recent engagement with Citizens Advice and members agreed on the importance of a continued dialogue.

7. Members discussed a recent series of BEIS workshops on the Home Upgrade Grant.

### **HMT Net Zero Interim Report Presentation**

8. The Committee on Fuel Poverty gave an introductory presentation on their key areas of interest related to the cost of net zero and a just transition for fuel poor households.



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9. HMT officials noted that the Cost of Net Zero team and the CFP have shared objectives and ongoing communication would be mutually beneficial.

10. HMT gave a presentation on their [Net Zero Review Interim Report](#), noting the importance of transition to net zero for both the climate and economy. Key focus for HMT has been around understanding what are the costs, where they might fall and what trade-offs in the transition.

12. It was noted that the transition to net zero is a dynamic process and the impact on individual households will ultimately depend on a range of factors. Future innovation is not easily predicted, and new technology may have an impact on the speed of transition.

### **HMT Net Zero Interim Report Presentation – CFP Response**

13. A key common area of interest identified was around the distributional impact and protection for those who need it most. The ability to identify those most in need is central to solving the issue of how to ensure those exposed do not face high costs.

14. There was an acknowledgement that there is uncertainty and that it will be important to maintain contact.

### **BEIS Policy Update**

15. BEIS officials gave an overview of current and future implementation on Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery and the Green Homes Grant Voucher Scheme. Also noted the recent consultation on the Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards.

17. A discussion took place around costs of measures including external wall insulation and the potential impact on upgrading the energy efficiency of fuel poor homes. In addition to rising costs there are considerations around availability of installers.

18. The CFP expressed concern and discussed the need to ensure the existence of a strong supply chain for the installation of energy efficiency measures.



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## **CFP Annual Report 2021 Preparation**

19. Members discussed the timing and structure of the CFP's next Annual Report and how this would link with Government publications expected later this year and in the context of COP26.

20. Members agreed to aim for a short update in the summer with publication of the CFP's Annual Report to follow in early autumn. This will enable a response to recent upcoming publications with a more strategic piece to follow.

## **Forward Look**

20. The Committee discussed upcoming priorities and considered future engagement with stakeholders. The CFP agreed to schedule the Autumn series of meetings.

## **AOB**

21. Forthcoming CFP meetings scheduled are:

- Tuesday 18 May 2021
- Monday 19 July 2021