



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) virtual meeting: July19/07/2021

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 BEIS sponsor and BEIS officials.

Members Interests

2. No new interests were declared.

Minutes of Last Meeting and actions

3. Minutes from May 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 NEA following publication of the Committee's interim report. NEA had shared the publication widely. Members noted it would be useful to discuss how to publicise the next report and how to respond to comments.
6. The Committee expressed an interest in learning more about funding opportunities and decisions coming up and would welcome a meeting with the HM Treasury to discuss, particularly in relation to capital funding for fuel poverty and energy efficiency schemes.
7. The Committee also discussed the need for a meeting with MHCLG. They expressed an interest in an overview of progress and updates on relevant subject areas.



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BEIS Policy Update

8. BEIS officials thanked the Committee for the interim report published 2nd July 2021.
9. BEIS officials gave an update on Heat and Buildings Strategy which will be published in due course.
10. BEIS officials gave an update on other upcoming consultations and publications, including the ECO4 consultation and the Affordability Unit Call for Evidence.
11. BEIS officials outlined the Warm Home Discount consultation (Warm Home Discount: better targeted support from 2022) which opened on the 28th June 2021.
12. BEIS officials also noted the upcoming spending review, wider policy development and the consideration of impacts for fuel poor consumers.
13. The Committee (David) and BEIS officials discussed the timing of the CFP annual report.

Discussion on recent and upcoming publications

14. The Committee discussed the Warm Home Discount consultation which is currently open to responses (closing 22nd August 2021). The Committee discussed its proposed approach to targeting and reflected that they were pleased with progress but there was still lots of room for improvement.
15. The Committee discussed the upcoming ECO4 consultation and which members of the Committee would draft the response.
16. The Committee discussed upcoming publications such as the Affordability Call for Evidence and the Heat and Buildings Strategy.



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Discussion on 2021/22 Research Project

17. The Committee discussed an updated research project proposal. BEIS officials agreed to provide feedback over the new couple of weeks and outlined some changes to the research project approval process.

CFP Annual Report 2020 progress

18. The Committee discussed progress towards their recommendations since the last annual report in 2020. The Committee reflected that there have been good intentions from BEIS and steps in the right direction, but an improvement in delivery needs to be made to ensure progress towards the fuel poverty target.

19. Members also discussed progress and changes made to fuel poverty policies.

CFP Annual Report 2021 Preparation

20. The CFP discussed the scope of their annual report and agreed to reconvene to agree format and actions for writing of individual sections.

21. Members also discussed the timing of publication of their 2021 annual report to maximise impact.

Forward Look

22. The Committee discussed upcoming priorities and considered future engagement with stakeholders.

AOB

23. The Committee and BEIS colleagues thanked Lawrence Slade for his work and contributions to the Committee on Fuel Poverty throughout his tenure.

24. Forthcoming CFP meetings scheduled are:

- Tuesday 21 September 2021
- Tuesday 9 November 2021
- Tuesday 14 December 2021