



Committee on Fuel Poverty

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) virtual meeting: December

14/12/2021

1. The Chair and all members of the Committee were present: David Blakemore (Chair), Paul Massara, Jenny Saunders and Anu Singh. Invited guests in attendance were BEIS officials.

Members Interests

2. No new interests were declared.

Minutes of Last Meeting and actions

3. Minutes from November 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 Chair discussed recent engagement with Stratford upon Avon Council about the Home Upgrade Grant and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund and the implementation of schemes locally.
6. The Committee discussed the importance of meeting with industry organisations to discuss the supply chain and training programmes.

CFP Research Project Update

7. BEIS officials gave an update on the options for procuring the CFP research project and the path forward having received no bids in response to the recent tender exercise.
8. The Committee discussed the need for a potential research supplier to have a high level of expertise to carry out the research project.



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BEIS Policy Update

9. BEIS officials gave an update on the campaign for the next CFP Chair.
10. BEIS officials gave an update on retail gas price projections and consideration of potential impacts on fuel poverty. The Committee asked a question on the impact of the supplier of last resort programme on any price cap increase. It was outlined that Ofgem sets the price cap, but BEIS are in dialogue with Ofgem and will keep the Committee updated. The Committee agreed to send recommendations for protecting fuel poor households to the BEIS Secretary of State.
11. BEIS officials gave an update on the expected timeline for a government response for the Warm Home Discount, Energy Company Obligation and Private Rented Sector Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards consultations.
12. Members discussed further expected pressure on the cost of living due to another potential price cap increase in the spring. The Committee also discussed the role of oil and gas in providing affordable energy for fuel poor households.

Handover planning

13. The Committee discussed the likelihood of sustained pressure on wholesale energy prices and how that should be reflected in Committee priorities and recommendations for government programmes. The importance of energy efficiency measures was noted in providing affordability.
14. The Committee discussed their recommendations from their Annual and Interim reports and the level of impact each recommendation would have in reaching the fuel poverty target.

Forward Look

15. The Committee discussed that member recruitment has not progressed significantly and considered the impact on potential start dates for new members.



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AOB

16. Forthcoming CFP meetings scheduled are:

- Thursday 20 January
- Thursday 24 March