

Minutes of Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) formal meeting: 15th May 2023

Members Present: Caroline Flint (Chair), Belinda Littleton, Liz Bisset, Anu Singh, Anthony Pygram and Gordon McGregor.

Invited guests in attendance: officials from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and London Economics.

Agenda Item 1: Chair's Welcome, Members Interests and Minutes of Last Meeting

1. The Chair welcomed members and thanked members for their engagement. No new member interests declared. Members cleared minutes for April.

Agenda Item 2: Action Log - Update on Progress

2. Members clarified the ask around actions from April meeting and responses are needed to feed into the annual report.

Action: DESNZ to respond outstanding actions.

Agenda Item 3: Stakeholder Engagement

3. Members noted additional stakeholder engagements to be added to the engagement log.
4. Chair gave an overview of the recent meeting with DESNZ Permanent Secretary and suggested it would be worth inviting him to engage further with the Committee. The Committee also agreed to invite the Minister to a future meeting.

Action: CFP to invite the Permanent Secretary to a future CFP meeting.

Action: DESNZ to engage with Minister Solloway's office about future engagement with the CFP.

Agenda Item 4: Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Policy Update

5. DESNZ will be undertaking a review of the Fuel Poverty Strategy, including an assessment of progress. This is important in the lead up to the 2025 milestone and the 2030 target.
6. DESNZ additionally provided an update on the status of the Pre Action Protocol letter from Greenpeace regarding the fuel poverty target.
7. DESNZ provided an update on wider work around fuel poverty and affordability, including measures to support low-income and vulnerable households.

Agenda Item 5: Fuel poverty statistics

8. DESNZ Statistics provided an overview of the sub-regional fuel poverty statistics published on 27 April. Although rural households are more likely to be in fuel poverty, there is more fuel poverty in the inner-city due to higher concentrations of low income households.
9. DESNZ Statistics do not capture fuel poverty gap on a sub-regional level. The team included information in the annual report which showed the South-West had the highest average fuel poverty gap whilst having an overall medium rate of fuel poverty. The high fuel poverty gap is largely driven by average size of property.
10. Energy Company Obligation (ECO) statistics at regional and sub-regional level are published quarterly. More headline information is published monthly. There has been regional variation in the level of ECO activity with higher rates in northern regions. London, however, has the least, partly attributed to high level of renters and flats where it is harder to get agreement to deliver the measures.
11. Breakdown of measures installed by sub-regional level of different schemes where available can be found in the [domestic energy map](#).

Action: DESNZ to advise what schemes have data available at Lower Super Output Area levels and what plans there are to expand this to further schemes.

Agenda Item 6: Research project 2022-23

12. London Economics provided an overview of the research, scope, and findings including questions and aims, challenges faced by fuel poor households and further areas to explore.

13. Findings highlight that there are many points at which an individual or household can become fuel poor, and there is no single point of origin. The research identified a number of challenges, facing fuel poor households including health and wellbeing, food and nutrition, energy affordability and poor access to knowledge or support.
14. London Economics highlighted that the level of need for 2023/24 will depend on future energy prices. It is possible that the challenges could be as bad, particularly around health and wellbeing.

Agenda Item 7: CFP Annual Report continued & forward look

15. The CFP discussed the annual report currently in draft form. The CFP reviewed the recommendations included in the draft report and discussed the need for cohesion between sections and a clear takeaway message in terms of priorities.
16. CFP would like to be in a position to publish the annual report early-June.

AOB

17. The next official CFP meeting to be confirmed.