



Minutes ALEO East Midlands Meeting Wednesday 18 January 2017

The John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7FQ

1. Attendees and Apologies

Attendees:

Kris Barfield – Ashfield District Council
Giovanna Bezzina – East Northamptonshire Council
Justine Biggs – E.ON
Helen Chadwick – Harborough District Council
Ian Chapman – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Darsh Chauhan – ALEO East Midlands Vice Chair
Geoff Davenport – Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Zoe Davies – North West Leicestershire District Council
Aidan Davis – EDI-Net Project
Jonathon Dyson – E.ON
Julie Hanson – Boston Borough Council
Sean Johnson – Lincolnshire County Council
Rina Jones – Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Local Authorities Energy Partnership
Rob Leeson – ALEO National Secretariat
Karen Lond – ALEO East Midlands Chair
Nicola Holt – Green BELLE Project
Jane McLardy – E.ON
Rosie Morton – National Energy Action
Bill Purvis – Derbyshire County Council
Helen Richmond – Newark and Sherwood District Council
Qaizer Sethi – Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Rebecca Short – Charnwood Borough Council
Nicky Swetnam – National Energy Action
Joanne Walker – Amber Valley Borough Council
David Young – ALEO East Midlands Secretariat

Apologies:

Debra Fox – North East Lincolnshire Council
Rob Cartwright – eTech Solutions Limited
Vanessa O’Brien – Lincolnshire County Council
James Faircliffe – Rutland County Council
Aabeda Choksi – Charnwood Borough Council
Jenni French – Ashfield District Council

2. Chair's Update

KL thanked E.ON for kindly sponsoring the meeting. The presentation is available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings).

- **Minutes and matters arising from previous meeting**

Nicky Swetnam raised a question with the previous minutes, around Smart Energy GB stating energy companies only offering a smart meter once. As energy companies are able to offer more than once, but are obliged to only offer the once.

This has now been changed and the minutes from the meeting in September 2016, held at Leicester City Council, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

- **National ALEO Update**

Directors have signed forms for Companies House to change trading name of the company from UK Home Energy Conservation Association Ltd to the Association of Local Energy Officers Ltd. ALEO is still exploring further sponsorship opportunities.

The last ALEO conference was in Bournemouth, and the ALEO Awards were handed out. Congratulations to Northants Warm Homes Partnership who won the East Midlands Award.

The next ALEO Executive meeting is on Thursday 19 January 2017.

- **BEIS: Heat in Buildings – the future of heat: domestic buildings – consultation**

BEIS has asked for views on the options for raising domestic boiler standards. The Government is also seeking evidence on the costs and benefits of the wider domestic central heating system performance improvements.

- **DCLG consultation**

This consultation invited views on the outcomes of the minimum requirements currently applied by DCLG to the operation of energy assessor accreditation schemes.

This was published on 20 December 2016.

- **Leasehold Reform (Energy Efficiency) Bill – Private members bill**

To make energy improvements in blocks of flats easier and would apply to homes in England and Wales. No one has heard any further update on this.

- **Ofgem Consultation - The allocation of voluntary redress payments in the context of enforcement cases.**

ALEO National submitted a response to this on ways to improve the allocation of voluntary redress payments that are made in the context of enforcement investigations conducted by Ofgem using the Gas and Electricity Act Powers.

For more information please see: <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications-and-updates/decision-consultation-allocation-future-voluntary-redress-payments-context-enforcement-cases>

- **ECO: Help to Heat consultation**

This was based on the proposed changes to ECO for 2017-18. ALEO East Midlands submitted a response, along with National ALEO. BEIS are still analysing the feedback.

- **Independent review of Consumer Advice, Standards and Enforcement**

Dr Peter Bonfield was appointed to carry out a review on the standards of energy efficiency and renewable instalments and whether frameworks in place are robust and ensure a suitable standard to protect customers.

Finally published on 16 December 2016: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/each-home-counts-review-of-consumer-advice-protection-standards-and-enforcement-for-energy-efficiency-and-renewable-energy/>

- **Ofgem re-launch Warm Home Discount for park home residents**

This follows a successful WHD pilot initiative. Park home residents can apply for the rebate at <http://www.charisgrants.com/park-homes-warm-home-discount-scheme/>.

3. Treasurers Update

DC thanked E.ON for sponsoring today's meeting. We currently have £1,000 left in the account, but we need a sponsor for future meetings. We are in discussions with E.ON who may be able to sponsor the next meeting as well.

Free venues would be appreciated at any local authorities, please let us know if you are able to offer.

4. Help to Heat – Justine Biggs, Business Development Manager, Jane McLardy and Jonathin Dyson, E.ON.

The presentation is available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings). Contact Justine Biggs on Justine.biggs@eonenergy.com. The presentation was followed by a questions and answers session.

Q – As the Central Heating Fund has gone, are there any plans for first time installations (boilers)?

A – We will be looking at it through the Affordable Warmth target, it can come under the new flexible eligibility target.

Q – You mentioned joint funding, as a smaller council will we have access to that?

A – Previously, Local Authorities would look at ways to access funding, we did it previously in North East Lincolnshire.

Q – What is the proportion of the funding associated with the new flexible group?

A – It is around 20%.

Q – Is it a statutory obligation?

A – Yes.

Q – Eligibility, what is the threshold for household income?

A – It is an agreement pre-determined with Ofgem.

Q – When the income threshold has been agreed, does that mean there is no top up cost to the household?

A – No, it depends on the cost of the measure.

Q – Is there any health criteria?

A – This is something that can be added at a local level.

Q – Going forward, is the paperwork getting less?

A – Reduced on the EPC and reporting side. Affordable Warmth still has a requirement for the proof of benefits which slows it down.

5. ALEO East Midlands feedback on the Bonfield Review – Each Home Counts

The ALEO East Midlands members' views were collected on the Bonfield Review and are now available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings).

6. Regional Updates

NEA is running workshops on “Keeping Warm in Winter: Community Action on Fuel Poverty” and is taking place around the country. There was one in Nottingham on 11 January. The NEA is planning to host another in the East Midlands in Northampton.

The NEA has also launched their new website for resources and guides on fuel poverty:

<https://www.fuelpovertyresource.org.uk/>

The next meeting for the NEA East Midlands Fuel Poverty Forum is on 9 March, at Ellipse Energy, DOCK, 75 Exploration Drive, Leicester.

7. HECA 2017 Reporting – Qaizer Sethi, Policy and Delivery Support (Home and Local Energy) Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The presentation is available on the website (www.aleo.org.uk/em/meetings).

Qaizer discussed what is required in the Act:

- Assessment of the cost of the measures
- Assessment of decrease in CO₂ emissions as a result of the measures
- Statement of any policy of the authority that takes into account the personal circumstances of any person

Qaizer then went on to mention what else can be included:

- Assessment of decreases in other emissions relating to measures
- Increase in number of jobs relating to measures
- Average fuel bill savings as a result of measures
- Any other appropriate matters

Qaizer also went through the new guidance for 2017. He stated that this was an update to the previous guidance, and the previous guidance is still there.

The HECA 2017 reports will be used by the policy teams within BEIS to gain an understanding of the current impacts of their policies and consider the future direction of travel.

A questions and answers session followed the presentation. The questions that have been sent to Qaizer can be found on the website. When we receive a response to this, it will be sent round to the members.

HECA reports are due by 31st March 2017 and should be published electronically on authorities website and a link to this should be forwarded to the Secretary of State at heca-reports@beis.gov.uk

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next ALEO East Midlands forum meeting will be on **5/6 April 2017** at The John Godber Centre, Ogle Street, Hucknall, Nottingham, NG15 7FQ. This is to be confirmed.

9. Any Other Business

No other business.