



## **ALEO East Midlands – Summary of questions on HECA for Qaizer Sethi, BEIS**

- 1) Is this a progress report or a further report?
- 2) Do you want us to include a reflection of what was in the 2015 report and what we have done?
- 3) Flexible eligibility, is there anything firm about the proposals?
- 4) You've asked for a statement of intent within our HECA reports around Flexible Eligibility as guidance on this has not yet been published, will we be able to update our reports with this statement after 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017?
- 5) When is the proposal and guidance on flexible eligibility going to be published?
- 6) Is this an update on existing guidance, or a full re-write?
- 7) Part 1 Context, page 5 and 6 – Fuel Poverty (England) Regulations has the target of raising as many fuel poor households to EPC Band C by 2030 and interim milestones of Band E by 2020 and Band D by 2025. Apart from Private Sector housing, there isn't another reference to the EPC bands, despite the target in the Fuel Poverty Strategy for England: does BEIS plan to measure improvements in EPC banding and if so how and will this data be freely accessible to LAs so we can include in our HECA report?
- 8) LEPs are down as a stakeholder in the HECA guidance, what relationship do you think we need to have with them as Local Authorities?
- 9) Across the LEPs, ERDF, struggled to spend low carbon funds. Are HECA reports going to be used for LEPs to support LAs?
- 10) What happens if LAs don't submit HECA reports?
- 11) Are we able to find out how many smart meters have been installed in a specific county?
- 12) Is BEIS going to publish a list of reports, and if so where?
- 13) We used to get feedback on the HECA reports, but no feedback was given in 2015. Will there be feedback this time?
- 14) Does the information in the previous guidance still apply; including getting it signed off by the Chief Executive? (This helped to raise the profile of the HECA report corporately)
- 15) Is the HECA report for internal reporting rather than an external facing public document for BEIS?
- 16) If you did provide feedback, it could be on the achievements from the last report, rather than what the ambitions are in the current report?
- 17) Is BEIS ambition to make HECA more important?
- 18) Will there be any funding going into HECA?

19) A lot of links (to HECA reports) on council websites are broken, hard to find, etc. Is BEIS going to request links are kept live for the duration of the report?

Suggestions/views:

- A standard template would be better to compare between LAs, and also help to provide feedback. As, feedback is vital to keep LAs doing the report.
- Feedback seems key to many LAs.
- There needs to be an incentive for HECA reports, and value needs adding from Central Government. This will increase the importance of HECA, as it shouldn't be a tick box exercise.
- Previous HECA report use to be signed off by Chief Executive. But, new guidance does not ask to sign off by the Chief Executive. It raises the awareness and importance of HECA if the Chief Executive has to sign it off.