

Notes from EMCAN Meeting on 9th December 2011

at The Orange Rooms, Voluntary Action Leicestershire, 9 Newarke Street, Leicester

1. Apologies and Minutes

Chris Gilchrist	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Patricia Sumner	East Lindsey District Council
Kay Kent	Erewash Borough Council

Notes from the last meeting are available on the EMCAN pages of the CAN website.

2. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Karen Lond of East Lindsey District Council and currently Vice Chair of EMCAN had been nominated for the position of Chair by email by Patricia Sumner. Alan Isaac of South Northamptonshire Council seconded the nomination at the meeting and Karen was duly elected to the position of Chair of EMCAN. There were no nominations for the position of Vice Chair. Karen will email Pippa some key points in relation to this position for circulation to the EMCAN members. Nominations should then be sent by email to Pippa. Denise Marsdon was thanked for her long service as Chair of EMCAN.

ACTION: KAREN LOND

3. Warmfront Update

A representative from Warmfront was unable to attend the meeting. Karen will email Pippa a copy of the update for circulation to EMCAN members. Karen commented that there has been a very disappointing spend in the East Midlands this year. Karen will ask Warmfront how they intend to spend the additional £10m announced in the Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund.

There followed a brief discussion about the Warm Homes, Healthy People Fund. A number of councils had looked at submitting proposals but were not able to do so in the limited time available. The need for bids to be submitted by top tier authorities had presented particular difficulties. Northamptonshire County Council had made a submission with input from Northants Warm Homes. A bid had been submitted by LCC on behalf of Lincolnshire.

ACTION: KAREN LOND

4. Green Deal and ECO Consultation

CAN will be submitting a response to the DECC consultation on ECO and the Green Deal. The consultation runs to over 200 pages with a large number of questions so EMCAN members decided to concentrate on Chapter 2: Measures, products and systems.

Q8: Which measures should be added to the list of qualifying measures in Annex A for non-domestic properties, and what evidence is there that these measures improve the energy performance of buildings?

Not relevant to CAN, as non-domestic properties, although voltage optimisation was suggested.

Q9: Will the existing Appendix Q process, which will allow new measures to be added to the Green Deal assessment tools, and to the list of qualifying improvements, support innovation in the market and how could the process be improved? In particular, what support could SMEs benefit from?

Not relevant to CAN

Q10: What innovative ways can the government use to encourage the uptake of a package of measures and could our existing proposals support this?

Publication of EPC database.

Incentivisation is vital.

Independent marketing by central government, so not seen as linked to companies.

Impartial advice is necessary.

Q11: Please provide views on the potential inclusion of hard-to-treat cavities (and potentially other measures of a similar type), and proposals for how properties might be accommodated in the ECO without excessive complication or perverse consequences.

Should be included to encourage utilities to innovate.

Quick assessment might not pick up on issues with hard-to-treat cavities.

- Q12: We propose that the ECO Carbon Saving obligation should be achieved primarily by promoting and installing solid wall insulation. Should any other measures be supported, and how would these be defined?**
Flat roofs, attic conversions, dormer properties.
Park homes – could sub-meter and pay back through council tax?
- Q13: For the ECO Carbon Saving obligation, we propose that any other carbon saving measures should only be eligible when delivered as part of a package with solid wall insulation. Do you have any suggestions for the criteria by which eligibility within packages should be restricted, explaining why you think any such restrictions should be included?**
No other restrictions
- Q14: We propose that *any measure* should be allowed under the Affordable Warmth obligation, provided it allows eligible households to heat homes more affordably. If you disagree, or feel there are risks to this approach, please explain and set out any restrictions you believe should be put in place.**
Prioritised list of measures, starting with insulation.
Priority/vulnerable customers should still get free insulation and not have to pay for it under ECO/Green Deal.
Modelling is not necessarily what happens in reality.
- Q15: Do you have any suggestions for whether and how we should score, boiler repairs under the Affordable Warmth obligation, such that where repairs are more cost-effective than replacement systems, without significant impact on efficiency, these can be promoted?**
Repair is better than replace but need to take in to account cost of repair and efficiency of boiler compared to new one.
- Q16: We are proposing that any heating measures should be allowed under the Affordable Warmth obligation, including for households off the gas grid, and extra incentives should not be put in place for air or ground source heat pumps. Do you have any evidence to bring to bear on the performance of heat pumps to improve the ability of vulnerable households to heat their homes affordably?**
No comment
- Q17: To what extent can existing product lists, such as the list of Microgeneration Certification Scheme compliant products be used as the starting point for the Green Deal Products list?**
- Q18: Do you agree that allowing enhanced product performance to be recognised in the Green Deal financing mechanism is useful? Do you have any specific views on how this approach could be implemented?**

Karen asked that any further comments should be emailed to Pippa as soon as possible. These will then be sent to CAN for inclusion in the response to DECC.