

Minutes

Attendees

| | |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Malcolm Bell | Croydon (Treasurer) |
| Ashwin Patel | Islington |
| Frances Ugboma | Islington |
| Justine Dornan | Kensington & Chelsea |
| Martin O'Brien | Lewisham (Chair) |
| Rachael Mills | SE ² (Secretariat) |

Apologies

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Ieman Barmaki | Enfield |
|---------------|---------|

1. National & Regional Updates

- 1.1 The [HECA Reporting Guidance](#) has been published by BEIS.
- 1.2 The [ECO Flexibility Eligibility Guidance](#) for local authorities has also been published. In this, BEIS has been more prescriptive about what is expected for SOIs, in particular:
 - Criteria must have an income threshold and include vulnerability to cold (eg you can't just target based on age or medical conditions)
 - You cannot have IMD as a stand alone criteria
 - You cannot choose different income thresholds to those in the guidance unless you explain why (e.g. use JRF Research as supporting evidence – see Appendix 1)
 BEIS have written to some local authorities about their SOI (even though the new guidance has only been recently published)
- 1.3 Although London Boroughs felt they weren't able to support the [Energy Store letter to BEIS/Ofgem](#), it was felt that it highlighted some important concerns regarding lack of delivery in ECO. **Agree to keep a watching brief.**
- 1.4 John Kolm-Murray, as National ALEO Chair, has continued to lobby Ofgem to allow local authorities to apply directly for redress funding. However, in February Ofgem reiterated their position that bids must be lead by the 3rd sector. We encourage collaborative working but need to avoid duplication of effort. **London Boroughs to collect evidence of where 3rd sector are delivering redress projects locally that potentially duplicate local authority work.**
- 1.5 BEIS is reviewing the national Fuel Poverty Strategy: the Committee on Fuel Poverty has repeatedly said that government programmes are insufficient to deliver on the existing strategy. It's unlikely anything will be published in 'late Spring' as promised, but when it does come out we need to make sure targets are not watered down and that London Boroughs (especially) get what they need to deliver locally.
- 1.6 The [Chancellor's Spring Statement](#) included reference to no new gas connections after 2025, although the detail on this is still unclear. He also mentioned 'world class insulation standards' but again it's not clear if this will mean changes to planning, SAP or PAS etc.

Justine raised a question regarding no new gas connections: should we still be recommending new gas boilers? How good are the electric heating alternatives right now? And what's best for our fuel poor customers or those in MEES-failed homes?

- 1.7 In London, the Warmer Homes Fund has closed its waiting list: JKM has said that those who are already on the waiting list will be prioritised for support. Internally, the GLA team are waiting for a decision on how the remaining £10m will be spent which will inevitably mean a gap in the programme, probably until the Autumn. It's understood that an evaluation will take place over the Spring/Summer and that the new programme will be subject to re-procurement. Justine also asked about feedback on referrals from the Warmer Homes Fund and there was agreement that this has been very slow: Boroughs should feedback to the GLA about this as part of the evaluation, especially as BEIS is likely to ask for feedback on SOI activity in the near future.
- 1.8 The [Mayor's Energy Efficiency Fund](#) (MEEF) has opened for applications. Similar to LEEF, it offers loans to the public sector for energy efficiency improvements at a similar cost to PWLB. £500m is available and the team are actively looking for projects to fund.
- 1.9 The London Assembly Environment Committee has published '[Breaking the Mould](#)', a report and recommendations to combat cold, damp and mouldy homes.
- 1.10 On 1st March, ALEOL co-hosted a workshop with LBEG and LECF on carbon offsetting funds. It was good to have all the groups together and to hear from the GLA, although the community energy presentations were disappointing. Malcolm suggested that another session could be held to encourage Boroughs to discuss their plans, issues and suggestions with each other.

2. ALEOL Members' Survey

- 2.1 There was agreement that a survey should be circulated to members, focussing on what they value about ALEOL and what they'd like to see covered at meetings. We could also use this as an opportunity to understand Boroughs' progress/plans for this year's HECA reporting. The Committee agreed that we'd pay for an upgrade to the free SurveyMonkey to make analysis of the data easier.

Everyone to send any further questions for the survey to Rachael by 22nd March

Rachael to circulate draft SurveyMonkey version w/c 25th March

Rachael to launch survey to members w/c 1st April, with responses by the end of the month

Summary results to be shared with members at the ALEOL meeting on 9th May

3. Finances

- 3.1 Rachael updated everyone on our financial position (see appendix 1). Some other payments may have come in but bank statements from June 2018-February 2019 are missing so this cannot be checked. However, the bank balance of £8517.87 is correct (as of 28th February).

Martin offered to go to NatWest to get bank statements, order a new cheque book and restart the mandate for signatures process.

Rachael to update the Treasurer's Report and liaise with Malcolm ahead of the AGM

4. AGM and Constitutional Changes

- 4.1 It was agreed that changes to the constitution will be proposed to allow for Full Members to meet once a year without Associate Members

Rachael to draft changes to the Constitution for Committee comment, and then circulate to all members no less than 4 weeks before the AGM along with the nomination forms for the Committee.

Once the changes have been approved at the AGM, Rachael will issue the 2019/20 invoices (in case the changes mean that any Associate Members no longer wish to remain)

5. Next Meeting: Thursday 9th May @ Barbican

5.1 The following topics / speakers were agreed:

- i) Energy switching options: GLA, ichoosr, Angelic Energy, BEAM
- ii) Climate Emergency & Zero Carbon 2030: Cllr Kevin Frea + GLA (2050 trajectories)
- iii) Greater South East Energy Hub: Paul Kemp

A short update slot will also be offered to JKM

Offers to speak from Justine Biggs (EON) and Michael King (on behalf of Switch2) will be declined

5.2 Martin to follow up with Kate Hands about attending the next LEDNet meeting

Appendix 1: JRF income thresholds, taken from the GLA ECO Flex criteria

Low income households are defined as:

| Household type | Inner Gross | Inner Net | Outer Gross | Outer Net |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-------------|-----------|
| Single working age | £30,455 | £24,027 | £26,845 | £21,579 |
| Couple working age | £43,387 | £36,171 | £37,450 | £32,172 |
| Single pensioner | £17,831 | £17,939 | £13,141 | £16,748 |
| Couple pensioner | £27,654 | £24,862 | £17,355 | £22,318 |
| Lone parent, one child aged 0-1 | £56,628 | £41,101 | £48,087 | £36,871 |
| Lone parent, two children aged 2-4 and primary | £67,058 | £46,768 | £61,346 | £43,464 |
| Lone parent, three children aged 2-4. primary and secondary | £78,298 | £53,269 | £72,585 | £49,965 |
| Couple, one child aged 0-1 | £58,617 | £47,575 | £53,242 | £43,931 |
| Couple, two children aged 2-4 and primary | £65,752 | £53,126 | £61,691 | £50,372 |
| Couple, three children aged 2-4, primary and secondary | £75,071 | £60,158 | £71,010 | £57,404 |
| Couple, four children aged 0-1, 2-4, primary and secondary | £110,455 | £81,392 | £94,344 | £73,744 |

Source: Minimum Income Standard for the UK, 2018, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Appendix 1

ALEO London Finance Update – 14th March 2019

2018/19 Financial Summary

2018/19 Invoice Summary

| | Value | Total | LA Members | Assoc Members | Sponsor |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------|------------|-------------------|---------|
| Invoices issued | £5975.00 | 34 | 12 | 21 | 1 |
| Payments received ¹ | £4757.60 | 26.5 | 9 | 17.5 ² | - |

2018/19 ALEO London Outgoings (incl VAT)

| | Forecast | Actual to date |
|--------------------|----------|----------------|
| Secretariat fees | £3000.00 | £3000.00 |
| Catering of forums | £1000.00 | £928.98 |
| Total | £4000.00 | £3928.98 |

TOTAL INCOME (PAID) £4757.60

TOTAL EXPENDITURE £3928.98

SURPLUS £828.62

2019/20 Financial Summary

2019/20 Invoice Summary

| | Value | Total | LA Members | Assoc Members | Sponsor |
|-------------------|---------|-------|------------|---------------|---------|
| Invoices issued | £400.00 | 2 | 1 | 1 | - |
| Payments received | £200.00 | 1 | - | 1 | - |

2019/20 ALEO London Outgoings (incl VAT)

| | Forecast | Actual to date |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Secretariat fees | £3000.00 | - |
| Catering of forums | £1000.00 | £337.32 ³ |
| Total | £4000.00 | £337.32 |

Bank Balance

Account balance £8517.87 *Correct to bank statement 28.2.19*

¹ Some other payments may also have been made: bank statement from June 2018 – February 2019 requested

² 50% payment due from ARP Services

³ January 2019 meeting – to be invoice June 2019