

ALEO London: Executive Committee Meeting
Friday 21st June 2019: Jerwood Space Cafe

Minutes

Attendees

Malcolm Bell	Croydon (Treasurer)
Justine Dornan	Kensington & Chelsea
Martin O'Brien	Lewisham (Chair)
Rachael Mills	SE ² (Secretariat)

Apologies

Ieman Barmaki	Enfield
Frances Ugboma	Islington

1. ALEO London Admin

- 1.1 Malcolm now has a passport so can get added as a signatory to the bank account. We will then sort other signatories, the account address and online banking.
- 1.2 The role of ALEO London Vice Chair is vacant: if you would like to take on the role please get in touch with Martin. The main purpose of the role is to be the first alternative contact if the chair is unavailable, such as potentially stepping in if Martin is unable to attend a meeting, the vice chair also receives updates from the national ALEO committee and is invited to attend their meetings, although there is no requirement to attend these as Martin will usually go.

2. National & Regional Updates

- 2.1 BEIS has published the outcome of the [Smart Export Guarantee](#) consultation. As per the original proposals, all licenced suppliers with more than 150,000 customers must have an export tariff of more than £0.00 (!)
- 2.2 At the National ALEO Conference (which was poorly attended), the BEIS ECO Flex Team were lamenting the fact they'd only received 11 returns for the annual monitoring. However, it was pointed out that LAs were busy at the time with their HECA reporting, which will also include ECO Flex outcomes. Also, the information BEIS wants to collect is not readily available to LAs, showing a disconnected between policy and practice.
- 2.3 Ofgem have published a new draft [Vulnerable Customer Strategy](#), open for responses until 8th August. It's likely to have relevance as BEIS begin to think about the next stage of ECO and their Fuel Poverty Strategy update.
- 2.4 After the last ALEO meeting, Martin contacted James Hardy at the GLA about the Greater South East Energy Hub but hasn't had a response. Last week a new £10m Clean Energy Fund was announced, to be administered by the 5 Hubs and with a focus on rural communities, which London will largely miss out on. GSEEH has also sent out a survey via LEDNet to Borough Environment Directors about energy mapping, with a view to scoping up regional energy maps, again cutting across existing GLA work. This seems very disconnected and we'd like a better understanding of what's going on. **MOB to follow up via JKM.**
- 2.5 LEDNet has also sent another survey to Borough Environment Directors regarding Climate Emergency Declarations. **MOB to attend their meeting on 1st July to feed into the debate.**
- 2.6 Although final sign off is still to come through, the GLA has awarded Warmer Homes Funding 2 support via Kensington and Chelsea (K&C, H&F, Westminster, Brent, Camden & Ealing),

Lewisham (12 Borough South East London consortium) and Islington (everyone else). This will run until March 2021.

2.7 The HECA Reporting deadline was 31st May. **RM to ask members to send links to published reports when they're available.** We'll also keep a look out for summary data from BEIS.

3. BEIS Fuel Poverty Strategy Consultation

3.1 BEIS are expected to publish their Fuel Poverty Strategy Consultation over the summer. As ALEO London won't meet again before then, initial discussions were held to agree principles for our response.

3.2 Several elements are expected to be included in the consultation:

- A change of definition of fuel poverty from low income / high cost (which has a lot of churn and because it's relative, can never be achieved) to low income / EPC worse than C. This will have a closer link to the target of no fuel poor in homes below an EPC C by 2025. However, it's expected to create an initial jump in the number of fuel poor from 2.5m to 3.6m.
- A vulnerability principle linked to the NICE guidelines, even if the home is an EPC A-C.
- A sustainability principle so that eligible measures link to the Clean Growth Strategy.

3.3 The principles we discussed for inclusion in our response were:

- On the whole the new approach makes more sense, with the strategy more clearly linking to existing EPC target, with vulnerability and sustainability also being taken into account. The new definition makes more sense than the old one.
- London has missed out on fuel poverty funding and requires some sort of ring-fenced funding (like Scotland receives)
- This ring-fencing may need some sort of regulation so that all the money doesn't just go to well-resourced Boroughs. A sub-regional split could help here.
- There were a range of views on how this ring-fenced fund could be administered. The GLA has experience of taking such a role although they can also add cost and bureaucracy. Perhaps the suppliers could be directed to ring-fence a % of their ECO funds.
- Concerns that (especially inner) London has a lot of hard-to-treat homes, worse than a Band C. What does 'practically possible' mean in terms of measures? More funding needs to be made available for more expensive measures (eg SWI)
- Regular updates to the EPC database will be required so we can target customers and track progress.
- Accessibility of the funding, especially for vulnerable customers
- Links to NICE should mean that links are also made to health prevention strategies.

4. ALEO Members' Survey

4.1 The written report for the Members' Survey was circulated and discussed. **RM to share with all members.**

4.2 On the whole, both full and associate members are happy with what ALEO London provides. Key comments that we can act immediately upon are more case study / good practice presentations and a later start time (10am rather than 9.30)

4.3 It was also agreed that the minutes could be abridged slightly. It's still good to have something to refer back to though, and the policy updates are very useful.

5. Next Meeting: Tuesday 1st October @ Westminster

5.1 The following topics / speakers were agreed:

- a. Ofgem update on Vulnerable Customer Strategy (MOB)
(if they say yes, also invite BEIS to come and participate in the discussion)
- b. Inclusive innovation (as mentioned in the Ofgem consultation)
MOB to ask Ofgem for ideas. RM to ask Liz about smart collaboration in London
- c. A case study from a LA (not necessarily in London, but preferably urban)
RM to check through NEA/ALEO newsletters for ideas + our own roundtable updates.
Could possibly be on health, funding, zero carbon, pilot projects

A short update slot will also be offered to the GLA for a general update

Radbot offered to sponsor the meeting but this will be declined as members don't tend to be in a position to specify or pilot specific technologies. They are welcome to join as an Associate Member and update us on their product in the round-table session.