**London HECA Forum Committee**

Wednesday 11th March 2015

10.30-12.00

Café 171

Jerwood Space

171 Union Street

London

SE1 0LN

Present:

Irene Fernow Westminster Chair

Rob Ballington Newham Treasurer

Laura Shellard Hounslow

Karen Klomp Lambeth

Rachael Mills SE2 Secretariat

Apologies:

John Kolm-Murray Islington Vice-Chair

Natalie Morgans Harrow

Jo Gill Hillingdon

Steve Nottage Merton

1. **Regional Updates**
2. **London HECA Forum Chair:** Irene is being made redundant and is moving internally at Westminster to a post in public health. This sadly means she will be stepping down as chair of the London HECA Forum. John Kolm-Murray will stand in as Chair until the Committee is elections at the June AGM.
3. **RE:NEW:** the RE:NEW framework contract is out to tender and is expected to be in place by June. The GLA would like to update the HECA Forum on progress as the next meeting. They’re also beginning to look at the health agenda and tapping into funds via clinical commissioning groups (CCGs).

**Action:** RM to invite Kore Mason to present at the next meeting

1. **PRS Pilot:** this is taking place in Newham, Hounslow, Havering and Brent. £35-40k has been given to each Borough to offer grants of up to £8k to private landlords alongside discounted GDAs and free LRS training. The GLA is looking for case studies of engaged landlords, although there are concerns amongst the Boroughs as to whether they’d be as interested if the offer was less generous.

**Newham** mailed out to 3000 private landlords and received 150 applications (they weren’t able to use their accreditation database of 13-14k landlords due to data protection). A short list of 20 properties has been selected of which 8-10 properties will have works. Only one property will get the full £8k (likely to include SWI): the rest of the funding will be allocated to ensure a mix of building type and measures. The other properties will form a reserve list in case of drop outs which could happen the funding won’t cover the measures landlords want (eg windows or a replacement boiler where the existing one is still quite new): another back up plan is to offer the funding to additional properties for landlords in the short list (at the moment they are restricted to one property each). The LRS training is less useful (though still compulsory) in Newham as their own accreditation scheme is stronger.

**Hounslow:** Hounslow don’t have their own PRS accreditation scheme and so place more value on the LRS training. The project is being delivered by Retrofit Works, which will also be a good opportunity to test the local co-operative model. The council emailed about 3000 private landlords (contact from the Temporary Accommodation Team - some bounced) and had 50 applications

1. **Green Deal Communities:** it is understood that projects are getting to the install stage.

**Action:** IF to get update and circulate

1. **Insulating flats:** 40% of the London housing stock is flats. Those in the private sector are massively sub-standard but it’s very hard to co-ordinate measures (eg between freeholders and leaseholders). Westminster is working with Future Climate and Oxford University to look at the legal issues regarding improvements to flats. A high-level round table (with policy, trade, local authority and legal representatives) will be held on 17th March to begin to look at this, after which a series of working groups are expected to be set up.
2. **National Updates**
3. **National CAN:** Paul Maplethorpe is standing down as the Chair of the National CAN and there will a vote for his replacement: John Kolm-Murray intends to stand.

A recent survey of LA members showed that about half don’t really know about HECA or how it can benefit LAs: many have it as a bolt-on part of their job reconfirming DECC’s shift in focus away from LAs and towards communities (see for example the Fuel Poverty Strategy). NCAN see this as an opportunity and will be developing a simple manifesto to raise their profile general and with DECC.

It has also been agreed that a 2-day NCAN conference will take place in Birmingham in October. This will be another opportunity to engage with DECC, and to discuss with members what’s happening with HECA and where it’s going. This will be free to attend for LAs (although they will have to cover travel and accommodation costs).

1. **Health:** is rising up the agenda, especially with the publication of the NICE Guidance. CAN is writing to all Health and Wellbeing Boards to bring their attention to this guidance and Boroughs are encouraged to do this locally too. William Baker (the fuel poverty lead for Citizens Advice) is also looking towards the health sector for longer term strategies. Westminster Public Health are also hoping to fund a 6-month public health research project looking at the health impacts of inaction.

The Securing Health Funding event is taking place on Wednesday 18th March in London and has been oversubscribed.

**Action:** All Boroughs encouraged to update local Health and Wellbeing Boards on the NICE Guidance

**Action:** RM to invited William Baker to attend/present at the next HECA Forum meeting

1. **Fuel Poverty Strategy:** The Fuel Poverty Strategy – ‘Cutting the cost of keeping warm’ – was published on 3rd March (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cutting-the-cost-of-keeping-warm>). It is very similar to the consultation paper, focussing on the fuel poor, the vulnerable fuel poor and ‘bangs for your buck’. There will also be an annual parliamentary debate. SWI seems absent (and it’s not included in the model examples) and there is no delivery map. Boroughs need to think about how they can use the strategy to put forward the case for action.
2. **Fuel Poverty Innovation Fund:** DECC will use £1m to scale up existing projects this financial year. It is likely that DECC will talk to interested parties after the Election about possible bids for a further £2m.  DECC are looking for innovative proposals possibly around health partnerships (eg off gas solutions, park homes). It’s a small pot of money and they expect there to be lots of interest, but it’s not yet clear how the funding will be allocated. There was a discussion about whether Boroughs could put together a Borough-led bid or whether the GLA might bidding.

*Post meeting note: the £1m funding allocation was announced on 26th March, with Islington being one of the successful LAs. See* [*https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-heat-is-on-to-ensure-warmer-healthy-homes-for-everyone*](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/the-heat-is-on-to-ensure-warmer-healthy-homes-for-everyone) *for more details. Related to this British Gas will also be announcing soon how people can bid for their 2-year £11.1 million fund: health projects might be welcome but local authorities won’t be allowed as the lead bidder.*

1. **HECA Progress Reports: due 31st March:** There is some confusion as to what Boroughs need to do. A letter has been circulated by DECC to all Chief Executives that states “reports should be published on your website with a copy of the link to it sent to [heca-reports@decc.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:heca-reports@decc.gsi.gov.uk)”.

**Action:** RM to circulate a copy of the letter from DECC

1. **Energy Efficiency Directive compliance:** As part of the government’s overall heat strategy and to comply with the EU Energy Efficiency Directive, property professionals will now need to consider the Heat Network (Metering and Billing) Regulations 2014, which came into force on 18 December 2014. This has been of particular interest to LBEG members and could also affect LAs with their own social housing stock.

**Action:** RM to circulate LBEG note on EED compliance

1. **Consultation on Display Energy Certificates:** this consultation closed on 11 March (<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-the-display-energy-certificates-regime-for-public-buildings>).

**Action:** RM to circulate LBEG response

1. **Other updates**
2. **Heat pump training workshops:** these are being run by DECC through June and July and are aimed at potential customers of heat pumps in both the domestic and non-domestic sectors. These could be of interest to Boroughs as social landlords and as owners of non-domestic stock (eg council offices, leisure centres, etc). The non-domestic session in London is taking place on 16th June, and the domestic session on 18th June. There will also be a bespoke session on water source heat pumps in London on 30th June. Full details and online booking is available at [www.deccheatpumptraining2015.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.deccheatpumptraining2015.eventbrite.co.uk).

1. **Smart Energy UK Stakeholder Workshops:** Rob attended a workshop in November 2014 and a compiled Q&A sheet is now available, covering smart meters, the roll-out programme and consumer engagement.

**Action:** RM to circulate the Q&A document

1. **Low Carbon Networks Fund:** The LCNF is a £500m fund managed by Ofgem that supports projects sponsored by the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to pilot new technology, operating and commercial arrangements. UK Power Networks has received £5.5m to pilot a project in Tower Hamlets – and there was a discussion on how this money was being spent. Details about the project are available at <http://innovation.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/innovation/en/Projects/tier-2-projects/Vulnerable-Customers-and-Energy-Efficiency/>. SE2 has recently completed a research project for Citizens Advice to capture findings on consumer impacts from the most relevant LNCF projects, including the UKPN project. The report was published 19 March and is available at <http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/index/policy/policy_publications/consumer_impacts_from_low_carbon_networks_fund_projects>.
2. **Finance**

The London HECA Forum is the only regional forum that charges membership. The fee structure means we can run more events and have a paid secretariat. Because we’ve had to pay for meeting room hire during 2014, funds are running low. There was a discussion about the membership fees and other ways in which we could balance the books (eg free meeting rooms, sponsorship, different membership levels). There was general agreement that membership fees for Boroughs (optional £200) should not be increased. There was also concerns that having a large sponsor could affect the Forum’s impartiality.

**Action:** RM to provide an outline budget for the Forum so we can assess if/how membership fees need to be increased.

1. **Summer Forum**

The next London HECA Forum meeting will be on Monday 1st June at Southwark Council (lunch followed by an afternoon meeting). It was agreed that the theme for the meeting will be health.

Provisional date was agreed of Friday 12th September (morning). RBKC to be asked to host.

Provisional agenda items:

* AGM & elections
* General Election debrief (JKM)
* RE:NEW update (GLA) – we could also ask for a Borough case study?
* Health:
  + NICE update (JKM)
  + CCG position – how we see the world
  + William Baker (Citizens Advice) – their view of the world
  + Borough case study (cross-Borough example?)
  + Round table discussion – what can we do with these insights?

**Action:** RM and JKM to liaise re the AGM and election (voting papers to be sent out electronically)

**Action:** RM and JKM to finalise agenda and find Borough case studies (if appropriate)

**Action:** All Boroughs to contact CCGs contacts to try to find speaker (we could also approach David Pensheon)

**Action:** RM to invite GLA and Citizens Advice to present

Agenda items for future Forums were also suggested:

* Westminster flats research with Oxford University
* Ian Hutchcroft (EST SW) ‘masterclass’ on cross-Borough bidding & EU funds

**Action:** RM to organise provisional date for Autumn Forum (early booking will help with free venue)