**London HECA Forum Committee**

Wednesday 23rd July 2014

10.30-12.00

Café 171

Jerwood Space

171 Union Street

London

SE1 0LN

Present:

John Kolm-Murray Islington Vice-Chair

Rob Ballington Newham Treasurer

Natalie Morgans Harrow

Laura Shellard Hounslow

Karen Klomp Lambeth

Rachael Mills SE2 Secretariat

Apologies:

Irene Fernow Westminster Chair

Jo Gill Hillingdon

Steve Nottage Merton

1. **Updates**
2. **NICE Consultation response**: due in on Friday 25th July. London HECA Forum response is being submitted via NCAN, who are likely to adopt it as theirown response too (and maybe add in further comments about rural issues). The NICE Committee meets again in late September.

**Action:** RM to post the final response on website once it’s submitted

1. **Fuel Poverty Strategy Consultation response**: Rob offered to lead (with Sue) – deadline is 7th October. Key issues likely to be ‘reasonably practible’ clause and that a C rating by 2030 isn’t ambitious enough.

**Action:** RM circulate consultation link to all members

**Action:** RB to circulate first draft of response by 5th September for comment, to then discuss at Autumn Forum meeting

1. **Private Rented Sector Consultation response**: Karen offered to lead) – deadline is also 7th October.

**Action:** RM circulate consultation link to all members

**Action:** KK to circulate first draft of response by 5th September for comment, to then discuss at Autumn Forum meeting

1. **End Fuel Poverty Coalition:** Update from Irene, from the EFPC meeting on 14th July:

* New constitution of EFPC as Consumer Futures will become part of Citizens Advice. The new chair is Jenny Holland, Head of Parliamentary Team at ACE, the aims and purpose of the group will remain the same.
* William Baker talked about ACE new report [Ending Cold Homes](http://www.ukace.org/2014/03/ending-cold-homes/) which sets out to:

1. Improve the homes of low income households in 2015 to a minimum Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of D by 2020. EPC D is currently the average energy efficiency rating of the English housing stock.
2. Improve the homes of low income households to a minimum EPC rating of C by 2025.
3. Improve the homes of low income households to a minimum EPC rating of B by 2030. Band B broadly corresponds to current new-build standards and is widely considered sufficiently high to ‘fuel poverty proof’ homes for the vast majority of occupants.

* Chris Williams (Labour) MP talked about ‘Fuel Poverty in Parliament and beyond’ and convincingly set out the financial argument for investment in energy efficiency. £1 spent on construction output generates a total of £2.84 in total economic activity (i.e. GDP increase), energy efficiency also fits in with other national priorities such as creation of entry level employment, benefits to NHS etc. Discussions followed around how to rephrase the financial case for investment in energy efficiency and how thinking about in different terms could increase fundability for example make energy a ‘Nation Infrastructure Priority’ and/or a shift from calling it capital expenditure could make it more acceptable for treasury to allocate funding
* The main aim of the EFPC is to influence policy but will also discuss delivery issues where these need policy interventions to be resolved. Future meeting will look at conservation and leasehold law issues.

EFPC will also be launching an Affordable Warmth Manifesto on 9th September (11-1 @ Portcullis House)

**Action:** JKM to circulate details of launch event

1. **Other updates:**
   * **RE:NEW Procurement: Action**: RM to ask GLA for an update and if/how we can contribute to the development of the spec
   * **GDHIF**: **Action:** RM to circulate the DECC press release explaining that the rates are changing (because the £50m milestone has been reached)
   * **BESN**: LAs have been excluded from applying again! **Action:** RM to check if impact report from round 1 of funding is available
   * **ECO Consultation – Government response:** **Action:** RM to circulate link
2. **Finance**

£5250 of fees has been committed compared to £3400 last year. £3850 of this is from Members; £1400 from Associate Members.

**Action:** RM to update financial spreadsheet and send to RB

**Action:** RB to do banking handover with John Davies, and to find out current balance of account

1. **Autumn Forum**

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

Agenda items:

* Round table update
* Fuel Poverty Consultation: DECC update then discussion of draft response
* PRS Consultation: discussion of draft response
* ECO Update: British Gas / Scottish Power to be asked to present, followed by Borough case study (either Newham or Havering?)
* Project profile: 1 or 2 from the following suggestions (could also attend Winter Forum):
  + SW sub-regional project: **Action:** RB to approach Ian Hutchcroft
  + Warm Zones HCRO project: **Action:** RB to approach
  + Lambeth Financial Resilience Strategy: **Action:** KK to approach
  + Barts/Tower Hamlets Health Project: **Action:** RM to approach GAP

1. **AOB**

**Action:** RM to add Kingston as a Member