**London HECA Forum Committee**

Monday 29th June 2015

10.30-12.00

Café 171

Jerwood Space

171 Union Street

London

SE1 0LN

Present:

Rob Ballington Newham Chair

John Kolm-Murray Islington Vice-Chair

Natalie Sansom Harrow Treasurer

Fran Evans Camden

Toby Morgan Islington

Martin O’Brien Lewisham

Rachael Mills SE2 Secretariat

Apologies:

Jo Gill Hillingdon

1. **Updates**
2. **Political landscape:** the Budget will take place on 8th July. Cuts to energy efficiency spending are expected and it is not known what will happen with the Green Deal or ECO (and if they are scrapped, it’s unlikely that any funds will be diverted to new energy efficiency projects). The devolution agenda does give a glimmer of hope though: it will be interesting to see who becomes the new London Mayor.

We need to hook into how energy efficiency can deliver a preventative health service (eg through avoided costs). This will depend on local health teams. We need to develop a sophisticated narrative, targeting individuals in need (rather than ‘the fuel poor’). By building a body of evidence (e.g. NICE Guidance, Citizens Advice Report) we can build pressure.

1. **Funding**

**Redress NEA:** It was thought that the Technical Innovation deadline has been extended. The Warm Homes fund is very tightly focussed around 10 regions and seems to be quite a convoluted process. The number of homes helped will depend on the amount of match funding that can be provided.

**Redress British Gas:** This fund feels more restrictive. Proposals cannot be LA led which has led to concerns that LAs are losing out. Groundwork are leading on a cross-Borough bid, but there are fears that their referral network could weaken Borough bids in the future as they will become less experienced. JKM represents LAs nationally as a Trustee for the British Gas Trust and will be looking for active LA involvement/support in bids.

Despite the flaws in these grants, it was also recognised that this is some of the only money currently available and they do offer opportunities. It might be better that Groundwork runs a project at scale rather than lots of little projects with multiple overhead costs (although local specialised organisations still need to survive!) If Groundwork does win, the £500k won’t go far across the whole of London.

**DECC Fuel Poverty Funding**: a second round of £2m was promised, but we wouldn’t be surprised if this was quietly dropped.

1. **National CAN:**

* Will be having a one-day national conference in Islington, probably in the 1st week of September
* There will also be a joint CAN/Citizens Advice conference in September/October
* The ‘securing health funding’ workshop will be rerun in the North East in September/October

1. **Future meetings**
2. **Morning of Friday 25th September 2015: hosted by Kensington and Chelsea**

Provisional agenda items:

* Accessing European Funding (including Horizon 20:20 - with view to a pan-London bid)
  + Access Europe?
  + Alternatives could be Justine Praine or Ian Hutchcroft – opportunities & pitfalls
* Thames Water
  + Social tariff, smart meter roll out
* Slot for Redress British Gas winner (Groundwork?)

**Action:** JKM to provide RM contact for Access Europe & Thames Water

1. **Joint Christmas meeting with LBEG**

It was suggested this could be a ‘technical/innovation showcase’ meeting. Possible speakers/topics:

* Matilda’s Blanket
* Q-Bot
* EnergieSprong – innovative finance (would need new angle as spoke at last meeting)
* Camden Redress Project on PV optimisation (if bid successful)

**Action:** RM to approach GLA to host joint December meeting

**Action:** RM to discuss topic ideas with LBEG Committee

1. **AOB**
2. **Banking:** Toby, Fran and Martin all agreed to become signatories. It was also agreed that we’d investigate online banking access

**Action:** RB/NS to action

1. **Finances:**

**Action:** RM to send out membership invoices

**Action:** RM to raise SE2 invoice

It was also agreed that we keep the provision of lunch at Forum meetings under review: if money’s tight then we could stop this.