

ALEO Executive Meeting Minutes
Thursday 16th January 2020 @ 10:30 am
BEIS, 1 Victoria Street, Westminster

Present

John Kolm-Murray (JKM) - ALEO National Chair
Paul Elliot – Chair, ALEO South West & ALEO Vice Chair
Graeme Stephenson – Vice-Chair, ALEO North East
Joanne Gittings (JG) – ALEO National Secretariat
Angela Eason (AE) - ALEO National Secretariat Support
Rachel Jones (RJ) - Chair, West Midlands ALEO
Amanda Martin (AM) – Chair ALEO South East
Justin Bailey (JB) Vice-Chair ALEO South East
Martin O'Brien (MB) - Chair, ALEO London
David Walton (DW) - Chair, ALEO East (via telephone)

Apologies

Cliff Duff - Chair, ALEO North East
Jane Mears - Vice Chair, ALEO Yorkshire & Humber
Neil Short – ALEO South West
Paul Hinsley - Vice Chair, ALEO East
Peter Owen – ALEO North West

Welcome and Introductions

JKM welcomed the group and introductions were made together with apologies for absence.

Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising (10/10/19):

- 1. JKM to work with secretariat on a letter to local authorities detailing the support network that is available through ALEO.**
- 2. JG to liaise with BEIS on the current status of pilots for the PRS MEES. Pilots are running in Oxford, Peterborough, Liverpool and Bath/Bristol regions but there is no date set for circulation of feedback, it is expected early 2020.**
- 3. RJ/JG to approach key utilities, focus on new larger entrants such as Octopus, Shell, BP etc as well as the traditional utilities for sponsorship - ongoing.**
- 4. RJ to speak with Rob Leeson in relation to the East Midlands Recruitment for Vice Chairs in the region is needed to connect us all together. Roles are combined and difficult to pin point the relevant officers within the councils.**

The 10th October 2019 Executive meeting minutes were approved as a true record.

Chair's Update

Fuel Poverty Committee – is meeting 16th January 2020 in BEIS and working on the 'housing upgrade scheme', its is early days yet to speculate.

Private rented sector 2030 projections – no plan as to how this will be met at present however, from April 2020 F&G EPC rated properties will be illegal to be rented.

Future home standard – MO'B said that ALEO London had provided a response on carbon reduction. The issue with electric heating is to not disadvantage those residents on low incomes with a minimum target and not being able to set local targets, moving from gas but also sensitive to those in the low income households. RJ raised the issue that it is how best to support those households with vulnerable residents. There is still the potential for Hydrogen into the grid but role out of this could be slow and RIOII would suggest that the network providers are still working on a 'business as usual' approach.

JK-M said that GLA had a lower priority for gas and it was very difficult due to the costs and residents not being familiar with the hydrogen technology. JKM raised that it was it was important not to put fuel poverty and climate emergency together with reducing carbon footprints. How to prioritise that issue and offer encouragement but with no clear guidelines at present on the decarbonisation of heat.

Executive to work on a statement to support the memberships position on decarbonisation of heat with a statement and letter to be written to minister to give clarity to make public. MO'B has circulated ALEO London's draft response.

DW highlighted that the gas network is only viable for a portion due to the financial restraints to residents with large challenges for the roll out of heat pump technologies. Specifically with challenges to the rural areas. RJ pointed out that there is substantial works being undertaken in West Midlands and whilst gas is a better solution to oil it is the investment in the infrastructure that is needed.

JK-M will circulate the BEIS pilot programme for heat pumps 'electronification of heat' and residential commercials.

JK-M to circulate key points ready for the new minster when starts in position.

August climate emergency 'Analysis of decarbonisation of homes has been circulated to the executive via DW.

JG to circulate the NICE guidelines inc. damp and mould recommendations for LA's.

Secretariat update

Charitable Status RJ reported that there had been a change from the Charity Commission and that it was now more expensive and complex to become a CIO. ALEO will register as a charity with a constitution to be re-written and include the new details required.

Data protection and the identification requirements have been circulated by Wright Hassall directly to Trustees. The Trustee declaration was passed for signature and has been posted

to DW to sign and return. PE reported he had not received a link. DW has difficulties downloading the software through the Council's firewall.

RJ to gain trustees insurance

JKM hopes that the process will be complete ASAP so that we are ready for the next round of redress bids that will be taking place, with a view to these being closed mid February for the panels approval.

Redress bid to be worked on now to submit for funding for support

With the potential of Redress the exec are to feedback to secretariat ASAP to advise of any regional projects that can be included.

ALEO WM and ALEO London to combine a bid based on a National supporting advice service. Standardisation of a minimum industry standard of advice given, with the emphasis on supporting the LA's that don't have advice. Other suggestions were a 'safe space' for tenants to raise issues. Providing an innovative services for the public, this would be for a future round accessing innovation funding.

JG to invite Stephen Ryman to the next ALEO national executive meeting.

Sponsorship –Until sponsorship has been sourced the executive have agreed for the newsletter to be electronic and for website to stay with existing provider and format for the time being. If a sponsor is found for the conference, it might be possible to use the new BEIS Conference Centre when it opens in August, but booking early is essential.

Regional Constitutions – GS to write and circulate ALEO NE constitution. RJ to write and circulate for ALEO WM.

Gary Braybrooke, Energy Efficiency Association

Gary discussed the role of the energy efficiency association, which is separate to the awards. It is a community interest and not for profit association that maybe able to work with ALEO to support LA's and contractors alike. RJ suggested Gary's support with a regional conference for ALEO WM members that would be free to attend. It was suggested for an ALEO SE / ALEO London and ALEO East joint conference.

Regions to liaise directly with Gary on regional conferences.

Laura Le-Thein, BEIS,

Laura thanked the association for the 17 responses on the call for information ahead of the meeting. The results of which will be circulated, after its close at the end of January 2020.

BEIS are looking at BECO 'Beyond ECO' and how low income and vulnerable households can be supported whilst looking at the roles that the local authorities will then play in that. Where there are high levels of flex measure BEIS are looking at the SOIs for that LA to see if there are any similarities between the 270 participating LA's.

Looking at a low income 'household cap' Laura was asking for feedback on how this would be administered to prove that the regulations are met with the £1.6 million of government funding. Seeking guidance on auditing to showing due diligence and considering if a household composition is required. AM highlighted if the measure was required to increase the efficiency of a property, it didn't really matter on the household composition. RJ pointed out that installing multiple measures together with the right measure for the property and householder is the main concern.

JKM pointed out that it is possible that the areas with lots of installations merely have active installers and also those that have a good relationship with the LA's so that more declarations are signed, rather than the content of the SOI's.

GS added that a few LA's have uncertainty around procurement and that input from BEIS on the minimum requirements may assist. AM mentioned the restrictions around GDPR were not assisting the situation.

GB suggested looking at the percentage of customer contribution to the cost of the installation was looked at, to see if it was higher than 25% what was the reasoning?

Simple Energy Advice Service, BEIS

Tan joined the meeting to discuss the website and call centre offering simple energy advice and how to make more homes more energy efficient (replacing the energy services advice). Offering tailored advice and smart meter energy efficient measures for tenants. Tan will contribute to the ALEO newsletter to raise awareness of the service offered to LA's that do not have an advice service.

Tan is looking for LA's to volunteer a trial to log in to the service to update details etc and will provide details for circulation.

AM suggested a link to the council's grant pages as this information was already kept up to date. JK-M suggested LA's to give a link to their suggested local advice for that area.

AOB

Dates for the future ALEO Executive meetings with venue TBC are as follows:

2nd April 2020 – with a view to this being held at BEIS sponsored by Stephen Ryman.

9th July 2020

8th October 2020