**Present:**

Peter Chisnall – Climate Energy, Facilitator

Abdul Hussain – South East CAN

Carol White – South East CAN

Charles Garrett – South West CAN

Darsheet Chauhan – East Midlands CAN / National CAN Secretariat

David Colbourne – North West CAN

Emma Quest – South West CAN

Jane Mears – East Pennine CAN

Jo Gill – London CAN

John Kolm – Murray – London CAN

Karen Lond – East Midlands CAN

Mary Unwin – West Midlands CAN

Nick Costin – HECA East

Oliver Myers – Policy Advisor – National CAN

Paul Mapplethorpe – East Pennine CAN

Rachel Jones – West Midlands CAN

Rob Leeson – National CAN Secretariat

**HECA**

In England’s there are 320 ECA thus there is a potential for 320 HECA reports. There is a huge opportunity to promote the network to officers and strengthen the position of the network.

First reports are due at the end of March. Due to the austerity measures and the proposed repeal of HECA many authorities have cut HECA Officer posts.

Whilst the new reporting is somewhat easier than the traditional HECA reports there are many members and officers within LAs who may require support to prepare the reports.

Whilst the guidance from DECC is wooly this does allow certain freedom within the report. As a result there is no set template or format. There are no targets, just ambitious priorities. This will make it difficult to compare reports, as it will be difficult to establish benchmarks.

As there is no requirement for ECAs to have a designated HECA Officer nor are there any attached resources it is anticipated that there will be ECAs who will not submit a HECA report as they lack the resources to prepare one.

Climate Local has not been successful. There are only approximately 40 Las signed up to it. It is doubtful that many more will sign up to it.

Action: National Secretariat to prepare an e bulletin for the network which will have some tips on preparing a HECA report.

Action: Members to send copies of reports to the Secretariat to circulate to members for information.

Action: National CAN to support ACEs in making a request under the Freedom of Information Action to DECC to see how many HECA reports have been submitted.

Action: National CAN to continue speaking with DECC to:

1. Request HECA training for Officers
2. Review HECA reports submitted in 2013
3. Beginning preparing for the 2015 reports

Action: National CAN to encourage LAs to recruit and retain HECA Officers. The network should show how these officers can attract investment in the forms of Green Deal and ECO.

**Green Deal & ECO**

There is still a lot of uncertainty around the Green Deal and ECO. The energy companies are cautious and do not want to spend over the £1.3b initially indicated by DECC.

LA’s are concerned about finding households that are eligible in the first instance then to get them through the cost effectiveness test.

It is difficult to know what measures can be expected as it is still not known what the prices of measures will be under ECO.

A recent conversation with a rep from one of the Big 6 suggested that spend will be as follows:

* 25% - G rated boilers
* 25% - loft insulation
* 50% cavity wall insulation

The concern is that nearly all the eligible lofts have been done!

Hard to treat cavities are being completed for free regardless of tenure.

There is uncertainty over the Green Deal and tenanted properties. DECC is arguing that tenanted properties can qualify for the Green Deal, lawyers at Carillion are arguing that this is not possible.

Birmingham City Council is ahead of the game and has all the procurement models in place. It is working with Carillion and is willing to go and speak to other regions about their work.

Action: National CAN to ask E.ON about their rates for ECO at the next Executive meeting.

Action: Members to share their experience of Green Deal/ ECO such what they are doing, what did not work etc. This can be done through the web forum, regional updates and news magazine.

**Taking the Network Forward – Health**

There need to be stronger links with the health sector. The problems being encountered are:

1. Fuel poverty is not a priority for the health sector
2. There is a lack of direct statistical evidence between fuel poverty and adverse effects on health
3. Difficult to know who to contact in the sector

Colleagues acknowledged that the Health Sector has huge resources and power to make a real change in the field of fuel poverty.

It was suggested that it may be better to seek the support of health colleagues first to begin a dialogue which may bring in resources in the future.

Action: Make Health a priority on the new CAN work plan and try and identify the drivers for health

Action: Invite Abigail Burridge to an Executive meeting as she is leading on health issues.

Action: National CAN to look at conducting some research into health and fuel poverty

Action: JKM is prepared to formulate and submit a response on behalf of CAN to the Excess Winter Death’s consultation.

**Taking the Network Forward – Members**

Many HECA Officer posts have been lost due to the current spending cuts and the fact there is no longer a requirement on LAs to have a HECA Officer.

Some former HECA Officers have been assigned to other duties whilst many have taken up roles within the private sector.

Recent events have shown that there are many new faces on the scene.

The regions across the network are diverse in their membership, financial structures and activities.

South West – Colin Anderson has been made redundant. Emma Quest is temporarily covering before going on maternity leave at the end iof March. Elections will take place at the next meeting which will be held at the end of the month. E.ON is not renewing their sponsorship of the region as they are the national sponsor. An offer of sponsorship has been made by Insta. The region enjoys a good turnout at meetings and has a paid Secretariat.

Eastern HECA - A meeting is scheduled for next Friday where hopefully officers will be elected into roles. The terms of reference are yet to be finally agreed and endorsed by members. Membership is by opt in procedure. There is no single sponsor. Instead there is a sponsor per meeting who covers the venue and catering costs. The region is hoping to become a network where best practice can be shared and mentoring be offered.

London CAN – Is going well. They charge a membership fee and the network is open to both LAs and private sector. The London Authorities meet regularly at CAN and other London events. One of the major concerns for London members is that they do not receive a proportionate share of funding from the government for the proportion of fuel poverty citizens and households they have.

South East CAN – Have sponsorship from Insta, British Gas, SSE and Scottish Power. They are now allowing sponsors to have a 15min slot at meetings. Due to the size and spread of the region it is proving difficult to organize meetings and attract large numbers. National CAN has been asked to send the Chair the delegate list and contacts from the Brighton conference to promote the network to new members.

West Midlands – There is no Secretariat or Vice Chair. The Chair is responsible for organizing the meetings and network. They do not have any sponsorship but have recently been securing sponsorship per meeting which is working well.

East Midlands – Have sponsorship for the first time from Insta. Have a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretariat who receives costs. The network meets regularly at various venues throughout the region. There have been historic issues which has resulted in a lack of response from colleagues in Notts and Derbyshire but we are working on this. Whilst most meetings are a 50% split between LA Officers and private sector the last meeting, which was also a HECA training Day was 90% LA attendees.

North West CAN – the network is only for LA officers, members from the voluntary sector. Private sector is only invited as a speaker. The network has sponsorship from Insta.

East Pennine – Have a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretariat. Meet regularly and have a good attendance at meetings.

Members agreed that due to the non repeal of HECA it may be worth rebranding as HECA. This is what the network is set up for and is our forte.

There was some discussion as to whether the network should have more of a lobbying role. This needs to be discussed further.

There was also debate about how the network views membership and whether there is a need to charge for membership.

It was recalled that it was agreed at an Executive meeting that the national Chair could receive remuneration (to their authority employer) to allow them x% of time off for CAN business. This also needs to be looked at further. The payment would be conditional to:

* There be adequate levels of sponsorship
* Agreeing a rate
* Agreeing time off with the LA in question

It was felt that the network needs to raise it profile with organizations such as ACEs and the LGA. Whilst it was noted that the LGA is more aimed at Executive members, it was felt that they need to take more notice of the network.

It was also noted that the NEA has lost a significant amount of its funding.

Action: Secretariat to send a questionnaire out to the regions to prepare an article on the regions for the summer edition of CAN news (set up, sponsorship, activities etc)

Action: 2013 Members Survey to ask questions on HECA reporting, rebranding of the network and current work priorities

Action: Discuss rebranding of the network to HECA with E.ON in principle

Action: Secretariat to check on legal procedures for rebranding and to discuss rebranding at the Executive meeting.

Action: Strengthen the voice of CAN with the LGA, DECC

Action: Look into the role of a paid Chair and the practicalities of it (perhaps an item for the new work plan)

Action: Look into preparing an induction for new members