

ALEO AGM and Executive Meeting Minutes

14 April 2016 @ 10:30 am
London Borough of Camden Town Hall

Present:

Darsh Chauhan	(DCh)	ALEO National Secretariat Manager & Vice Chair, ALEO East Midlands
David Colbourne	(DC)	ALEO Vice Chair and Chair, North West CAN
Hazel Hill	(HH)	Vice Chair, ALEO South East
Rachel Jones	(RJ)	Chair, ALEO West Midlands
John Kolm-Murray	(JKM)	ALEO National Chair and Acting Chair, London HECA
Rob Leeson	(RL)	ALEO National Secretariat
Karen Lond	(KL)	Chair, ALEO East Midlands
David Shiner	(DS)	Vice Chair, ALEO West Midlands
Carol White	(CW)	Chair, ALEO South East

Guest, arriving at lunch:

Carolina Valsecchi	(CV)	DECC (ECO)
Hannah Ward	(HW)	DECC (Fuel Poverty)
Patrick Allcorn	(PA)	DECC (Local Energy)

Apologies:

Paul Hinsley	(PH)	Chair, HECA East
Leanna Jones	(LJ)	Vice Chair, CAN Cymru Housing
Neil Short	(NS)	Joint Chair, South West CAN
Emma Quest	(EQ)	Joint Chair, South West CAN

ALEO AGM Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

JKM welcomed the group and introductions were made.

2. Minutes from previous meeting and matter arising

The minutes of the last AGM, held on 16 April 2015, were approved as a true record, and it was confirmed that there were no matters arising.

3. Election of Chair, Deputy Chair, Directors and Treasurer

3.1 At last year's AGM, the Chair and Vice Chair were elected on a three-year basis. There were no objections to JKM and DC remaining in post and both are happy to continue.

3.2 RL gave KL the software necessary to check over the company accounts.

3.3 ACTION: RL to double check that KL can be both treasurer and a director.

4. National and regional annual reports and accounts sign off

4.1 A copy of the directors' report, which will be included as an introduction to the annual report and company accounts, filed at Companies House, and published in the next edition of the ALEO magazine had been circulated by RL, prior to the meeting. The Executive confirmed that there were no amendments they'd like to make to this.

- 4.2 KL, signed off the accounts for the year 2014/15 on behalf of the Board of Directors, prepared by accountants Hayles, which will be filed with Companies House, as well as the letter of representation, stating that Hayles are acting as our accountants.
- 4.3 RL has asked Hayles about the procedure for changing the company name. Under the Companies Act 2006, it is the usual process for a special resolution to be passed and minuted at a full meeting of the company's directors. A Change of Companies Name form is then completed and filed at Companies House. A fee of £10 is payable. Hayles has provided RL with the necessary forms for signing.
- 4.4 It was decided that we should officially change the company name from UK Home Energy Conservation Association Ltd to the Association of Local Energy Officers Ltd. KL signed the necessary forms on behalf of the company directors. RL will look into the procedure for change the details on the company bank accounts and with HMRC, before sending the forms to Companies House.
- 4.5 **ACTION: RL to check with the bank and HMRC regarding the change of company name before sending the signed forms to Companies House.**

5. Dates and venues of 2015/16 Executive meetings and AGM

- 5.1 Apart from the next meeting date of 14 July 2016, further dates have yet to be confirmed for future ALEO Executive Meetings.
- 5.2 The Executive confirmed they are happy to continue using Camden as a meeting venue.
- 5.3 **ACTION: RL to ask for meeting room dates from Camden, and circulate the confirmed dates to the Executive.**

6. AOB

- 6.1 There was no further business.

ALEO Executive Meeting Minutes

1. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

Matters arising from previous minutes (14 January 2016):

- 1.1 (Item 2.13) The new FPAG members have been announced and the group has been renamed as the Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP). The CFP Chair will be Tom Wright from Age UK, and the group includes NEA's Jenny Saunders. Ninety per cent of applicants had a good knowledge of fuel poverty but were rejected, apart from Jenny. DECC say they were looking for people with business experience. This was also mentioned in the recent Panorama programme on fuel poverty.
- 1.2 The minutes of the previous Executive meeting, held on 14 January 2016, were approved as a true record.

2. Chair's Update

- 2.1 DECC's Warm Homes Discount (WHD) consultation is now open. It is not very comprehensive and is quite short term. DECC has not yet announced full details of their longer-term plan. DECC want to eliminate the distinction between the core and broader groups and have one data-matched group. They are looking to maintain the payment at £140 in the short term, but from next year, they will have to either reduce payments or restrict eligibility. They are proposing a restriction to allow no more than 50% of the money put aside from the industry initiatives to be used for debt write-offs. There are concerns over this, as demand is high for debt-relief from trusts. Some trusts already turn a lot of people away.
- 2.2 They are proposing a 'pooled' industry initiative, administered by Ofgem, with funds dispersed to organisations who would apply for this in some way, but there is no real detail on this. We need to make the case that this should not be restricted to third sector organisations and should be open to LAs. This was generally not the case with the recent 'redress funding'.
- 2.3 JKM suggested that ALEO should respond to the data sharing consultation, as it affects the future of the WHD and ECO. It will also give further powers to government to share data with other public sector organisations and companies. We should argue that we need more data sharing with LAs to allow us to target affordable warmth programmes. We should be supporting more data sharing generally, although this could lead to a lot of junk mail and spam for people with energy contracts expiring, a concern arising from the recent CMA report (see 2.23).
- 2.4 Having criteria where you are either 'in' or 'out' is very black and white. Sometimes people are on the fringes, and 'fuzziness' allows you to assist people who are in need, but not on 'passport' benefits. This might be the thinking behind changing the industry initiative, as DECC are proposing an element of discretion with ECO. We should make the point that there should be a degree of discretion.
- 2.5 The group were concerned that using the Low Income High Cost (LIHC) definition restricts eligibility for a lot of people in need, and it doesn't align well with health priorities as it excludes lots of pensioners and smaller properties. Under the LIHC definition, it is theoretically possible for your income to be lower than your energy bill, but if your energy bills are below the median then you are not considered fuel poor.
- 2.6 The group is also concerned about using EPCs for assessments. There are problems with EPC quality and age, and that some properties don't have EPCs. There is a lot of cloned data, and many EPCs are not up to date.
- 2.7 In principle, data sharing is a good thing, but it is not necessarily appropriate for the energy companies to be handling the data.
- 2.8 JKM had a meeting with Energy UK about the Home Heat Helpline which is closing in June. The reasons given are that calls have decreased drastically, as a lot of requests are now online. They also say that they won't need the helpline for Broader Group Warm Home Discount with DECC's new data sharing arrangements coming in. JKM made the point that this means they are closing the helpline before the consultation has run its course and a whole year before the data sharing arrangements are due to come into force. Apparently, they have been thinking about this for some time and it just happens to be coinciding with the WHD consultation. They don't regard the helpline as a particularly economic way to discharge their responsibilities under the industry

initiatives, which are changing anyway, but they did think that DECC would be quicker in introducing the data sharing and WHD changes. The service will now be web-based only. This is not particularly useful for many. Some LAs have been promoting the Home Heat Helpline number. They seem open to the idea of linking things up to local schemes.

- 2.9 There are discussions, particularly involving National Grid, around mapping the provision of local services around the country, which could provide a helpful replacement to the helpline. It's possible that industry initiative funding could then be used to fill the gaps where local services don't exist. We need consistent but locally-delivered provision, across the country.
- 2.10 JKM attended the recent meeting of the All Party Parliamentary Fuel Poverty and Energy Efficiency Group (FPEEG). They are looking for funding to map energy saving advice and programmes across the UK. JKM suggested to Energy UK that they could fund this. Caroline Lucas attended the meeting and was quite supportive. FPEEG want to point out to MPs the areas where there is no provision as well as where they can send their constituents.
- 2.11 Energy UK has appointed a new policy manager with responsibility for vulnerable consumers and debt, Natan Doron. Natan is also a Haringey borough councillor.
- 2.12 We need to make the case that the helpline could be replaced by local schemes and to show where schemes don't exist. Local knowledge is important to helpline provision, and there are subtleties that you can't get across on national databases. The NICE guideline says we need provision for every part of England.
- 2.13 The recent Panorama programme on fuel poverty shows that warrants are issued for installing pre-pay meters in the homes of vulnerable clients. This is forbidden under the Energy UK Safety Net code but this is being ignored. Panorama also found that magistrates are just signing off large numbers of warrants after asking energy companies if they have checked that the clients are not vulnerable, but the energy companies are claiming they have when they haven't, and are therefore potentially breaking the law. This needs to be stopped. This might become more difficult to track, as Ofgem are changing their view of vulnerability from 'vulnerable people' to 'people in vulnerable situations'. There was a pre-pay meter consultation recent, but there was not much on this in there.
- 2.14 Debt collectors are usually regulated, but this is not the case for the energy and water industry. This will be raised at the Energy UK debt group meeting in a couple of months. It is clear that debt collectors are often not adhering to their own code of conduct.
- 2.15 The Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) is now up and running, and they are inviting people to see them. JKM is setting up a meeting with the CFP Chair for some time between now and June, in his capacity as ALEO Chair. CFP have a remit for monitoring progress on the Government's FP strategy.
- 2.16 Citizens Advice are running a pilot in England to implement NICE recommendations across nine areas.
- 2.17 Age UK say they are scaling back their campaigning on fuel poverty. Age UK's Chief Executive is also the Chair of CFP.
- 2.18 Help the Aged used to have regional representatives and did some good work.
- 2.19 A lot of organisations are bidding for funds, with no track record or ability and don't engage with LAs. It is very chaotic, as per the energy companies being able to decide where redress funding goes. Energy companies are just doing what they can get away with. They are fined for wrongdoing and then allowed to decide where the money is goes. British Gas Energy Trust programmes are partly run on British Gas' fines. Energy companies aren't supposed to benefit from publicity from the redress funding; however, they are always named in positive stories from redress funded projects, particularly as they are giving their trusts names with their own company name on it. JKM has raised this with Ofgem.
- 2.20 NEA have recently received £3 million in fine money from National Grid.
- 2.21 DECC has launched a new toolkit, but some members of the group haven't been able to get it to work. It has to be opened in Internet Explorer and needs access to the Adobe website, which is blocked by many LA IT departments. There isn't much in it that we don't know already, however. It is a good overview of how to do an evaluation but it's not really a toolkit and doesn't do any sort of analysis.
- 2.22 There has recently been a National Audit Office report into the Green Deal, saying it was a waste of money. We need to point out to DECC that they should work with LAs when creating the successor able-to-pay scheme.

- 2.23 The Competition and Markets Authority report has been published. There is no guarantee that government will adopt the recommendations although it's likely they'll adopt much of it. It was a bit of a missed opportunity and an anti-climax. Several organisations were very critical of the report. People could be swamped with junk mail near the end of their tariff. The report recommended getting rid of the four tariff limit, so there will be more complexity. It's likely that the recommendation for a protected tariff for pre-paid meter customers will be adopted. There was very little mention of energy efficiency in the report, except when referring to the 'burden' of 'green taxes'.
- 2.24 There was a lot of response to the Panorama programme on Twitter on the night but not so much after.
- 2.25 The Climate Change Committee (CCC) has been producing some good reports, although this has not been picked up on enough.
- 2.26 Energy efficiency is largely forgotten about because wholesale energy prices have gone down. People are so obsessed with price and switching, whereas energy efficiency is a sustainable, long-term way to keep energy bills down.

3. Secretariat update

- 3.1 The Secretariat has been working on re-branding the network. Some regions have changed to ALEO, and some regions have upcoming meetings, where they will be deciding whether or not to change.
- 3.2 We have agreed sponsorship with Park Home Insulations, who will be sponsoring us for one year. Park Home Insulations are also happy for us to draw in other sponsorship where possible. The Secretariat will draft a contract, which should begin soon.
- 3.3 The first ALEO-branded magazine will be printed with sponsorship from Happy Energy.
- 3.4 The Secretariat will now look to set conference dates as we now have funding available. It was decided that it would be better to hold the first conference after the EU referendum – perhaps the first week of July.
- 3.5 Wigan are keen to help out and the Secretariat will look at Wigan as a conference location now that we have sponsorship.
- 3.6 It was decided that we should look into holding the first conference of the year in Wigan and then look at the West Midlands for the autumn conference.
- 3.7 RL asked for ideas for a conference themes. Infrastructure is a possibility. There will also be a focus on park homes with a presentation and workshop from the sponsor.
- 3.8 It was agreed that we should write off as bad debt one invoice for a delegate place at the 2015 London conference.
- 3.9 **ACTION: RL and DC to look into conference venues and start planning the conference.**
- 3.10 **ACTION: ALL to send any conference theme suggestions to RL.**

4. Executive Away Day Follow Up

Company Memorandum and Articles of Association

- 4.1 RL has been working on integrating the changes discussed at the Executive Away Day into the Memorandum, and will circulate this soon.
- 4.2 RL has asked Hayles about legal advice on the changes. Hayles do not provide this service, but they have recommended a partner company, which has offered a 30 minutes free consultation on this.
- 4.3 RL will change the company name in the Memorandum to ALEO.

Representing ALEO when speaking to the media

- 4.4 It was suggested that we produce a document with a list of topics on which ALEO has an official view, that we all agree on. Most of the time the media sets the agenda, but we could have guiding principles e.g. so if the media asks about a certain topic there's an answer we can give.
- 4.5 However, others felt that this is not necessarily practical.
- 4.6 We need to make sure the Secretariat is clear on where to send enquires, i.e. the Chair, then Vice Chair, but where after that?
- 4.7 Not every energy officer will agree with what we say, but we need to try to represent the majority. Sometimes will have to say that we don't have an opinion.
- 4.8 We could produce Twitter statements to agree on for the Secretariat to post. Tweets could have links to more information on the ALEO website.
- 4.9 We could also have a press releases section on the website.

- 4.10 Press releases won't be very often, and we will have to turn them around quickly. A template would help with this, e.g. "The Chair of ALEO said", then something saying what we are.
- 4.11 We don't have a list of media contacts so we should look into buying one, although we could come up with our own with a bit of searching.

Communications Plan

- 4.12 RL will draft an introductory letter to ALEO and send to JKM for comments.
- 4.13 We will need to produce a contact list of the organisations mentioned in the Executive Away Day minutes (8 February 2016), to which to send the introductory letter.

Letter to Government

- 4.14 DCh will write a draft letter to Government and circulate to the Executive for comments.

East Pennine and North East CAN

- 4.15 ALEO National is organising an East Pennine CAN meeting after the morning NEA meeting in York on 17 June.
- 4.16 JKM will attend the meeting and the National Secretariat will cover his train fare.
- 4.17 Cliff Duff has asked JKM what would be involved in setting up ALEO North East.
- 4.18 SE and London have a constitution they could send to Cliff.
- 4.19 North West CAN could ask Cliff to their meeting, or suggest a joint region.
- 4.20 RL will send DCo Park Home Insulations contact details to invite to the next North West CAN meeting.
- 4.21 Leeds are setting up their own energy company so they would be good to invite to the EP meeting.
- 4.22 Lee Cattermole could also be invited as Yorkshire Energy Service (YES) has been working on an interesting proposal combining the renewable heat incentive with another fund to set up ground source heat pumps as a communal system.
- 4.23 Charitable status could be good to bid for redress funding.
- 4.24 RJ knows a solicitor who specialises in charities and might be able to provide some assistance for free.
- 4.25 We could use a partner charity to bid or have a charitable arm of ALEO.

ACTIONS:

- 4.26 **RL to circulate amendments to the Memorandum.**
- 4.27 **RL and JKM to work on template for press releases.**
- 4.28 **RL to create press release section for website.**
- 4.29 **RL to look into buying a media contact list.**
- 4.30 **RL to work with JKM to draft a communications plan.**
- 4.31 **RL to draft an introductory letter to ALEO to send to media contacts etc.**
- 4.32 **DCh will write a draft letter to Government and circulate to the Executive for comments.**
- 4.33 **RL to send JKM East Pennine CAN meeting details.**
- 4.34 **CW to send JKM the ALEO South East constitution to forward to Cliff Duff.**
- 4.35 **JKM to attend East Pennine CAN meeting.**
- 4.36 **RL to Invite Cliff Duff to the East Pennine CAN meeting.**
- 4.37 **RL to send DCo Park Home Insulations contact details.**
- 4.38 **DCh to look into inviting Leed's new energy company and YES to the EP CAN meeting.**
- 4.39 **RL to resend link to DECC guidance on charitable status and look into options.**

5. Representation, consultations and policy

Priorities for year

- 5.1 DECC will soon be publishing an ECO 3 Consultation. We should reinforce that LAs should lead on ECO. We will wait to see what's in the consultation.
- 5.2 There are elections on 5 May, so London HECA will be sending a letter to the mayoral candidates. Other regions with combined authorities could do the same.
- 5.3 Combined authority mayors only have a remit for devolved powers. There will also be majors for the individual cities.

Public Health Agenda

- 5.4 Gento have produced a report on their 'boiler on prescription' project, which has recently finished. However, the sample size is small. Keepmoat are being commissioned by some CCGs in the North West, which seems to be working but needs to be monitored in the longer term to be sure. It's hard to replicate things across the country if evaluations are not robust.

- 5.5 JKM will be responding to the Warm Homes Discount consultation anyway, so will produce the ALEO national response.
- 5.6 West Midlands ALEO will be trialling a SurveyMonkey type form for members to send consultation comments.
- 5.7 The deadline for the Cabinet Office's consultation on Data Sharing is coming up. LAs could fill a very important role on this to connect with households and offer more services that won't be included in the energy companies' packages. DS will draft a response to this for ALEO for questions 5 to 7.
- 5.8 The two consultations on WHD and data sharing are complementary. RL will ask members for comments on the WHD consultation, but not the data sharing consultation as the deadline is too soon.
- 5.9 The debt cap proposal in the WHD consultation is a big concern. We need to comment on LAs access to the Industry Initiative. Park homes are also a concern as they don't usually qualify for the WHD as they buy their electricity from the site owner rather than directly. There has recently been an Ofgem pilot to give some park home owners the WHD funding by energy suppliers. This finished on 31 March. It would be useful to see the results of the pilot. The consultation document says *"A pilot scheme was introduced in autumn 2015 which looked to provide around 1000 rebates to residents of mobile homes who met the Core or Broader Group eligibility criteria. We will review the success of the pilot scheme this year and make necessary adjustments, though we do not anticipate making any changes to the provisions in the Regulations. Should the pilot scheme be popular and effective, we would encourage suppliers to provide more funding in future years"*. This shouldn't be optional. We need to ask for something more than this.
- 5.10 KL attended DECC's Central Heating Fund meeting. Even those with a mechanism already in place have only just started delivery. The predicted amount of delivery is small. It could be useful to look at which mechanisms worked and borrow ideas from them, although some things recorded as working were quite shocking. Some are using very long winded ways of targeting when they could have just asked an energy officer to pin point residents.
- 5.11 There has been a reorganisation in DECC. Pam Winn is now in charge of finishing off legacy issues, e.g. the Green Deal Community Energy Fund.
- 5.12 It was noted that the foreword of the HECA guidance was very positive about LAs.

ACTIONS:

- 5.13 **RL to ask members for comments on the WHD.**
- 5.14 **JKM to produce ALEO response to the WHD consultation.**
- 5.15 **RL to ask caterer about plates and napkins for next meeting.**
- 5.16 **DS to draft a response to questions 5 to 7 of the Data Sharing Consultation and send to RL and JKM.**

6. Regional Updates

7.1 South East

Written update from: CW, Chair of ALEO SE

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

The ALEO SE meeting was held on 24 February 2016 at Guildford BC.

We had three excellent speakers as follows:

- **Better Homes, Better Health, Alexandra Steeland Project Officer, National Energy Foundation.** Better Housing, Better Health. In partnership with Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire local authorities, the National Energy Foundation has recently launched a scheme to offer grants of up to £2,500 for energy efficiency improvements for those with a health condition which may be impacted by living in a cold or damp home. Alex Steeland, Project Manager, will present the aims and objectives of the scheme, the approach, opportunities and barriers, and learning to date.
- **Don't leave Park Homes out in the cold campaign, Alice Woudhuysen, Senior Campaigns Officer Age UK.** Alice runs Age UK's campaign for warm homes and park homes, which are calling on the Government to reform its energy efficiency programmes to enable all older people to live in a warm home.

- **Smarter targeting with Southampton Healthy Homes presentation Adam Goulden, Chief Executive, the Environment Centre.** The Environment Centre (tEC) has led a successful partnership bid for a new and innovative project, Southampton Healthy Homes. £500,000 has been secured from British Gas Energy Trust to support a unique project which presents an exciting opportunity for the organisation to better engage with health-led services. The central theme of the project is smarter targeting. To that end, tEC has seconded a health care professional to help them engage with GP practices and community nurses across the city in order to identify the most vulnerable and hard to reach patients. They have also seconded a community champion from a local community development organisation to coordinate with Southampton's multi-faith communities and broaden the project's reach. In addition tEC has purchased EPC data for the city and used it to produce an interactive map. The map allows them to run multiple queries simultaneously to identify homes with particular characteristics:
- Checking private rented EPCs and contacting landlords of band Fs and band Gs to either carry out HHSRS (single occupancy) or align checks with licensing checks and make licensing conditions (HMOs). Supported by thermal imaging project.
- Finding and promoting energy efficiency [Grants](#) including our own Winter Warmth one (with free Small Repairs) and FREE boiler with British Gas. Targeted at vulnerable people.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

Our next forum meeting will be held on 22nd June at Chiltern DC

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

We have now gone through a secretariat recruitment process. This has been rather time consuming but the Executive Committee felt that after 10 years with the current service provider we should advertise to make sure we were receiving 'best value for money'. This created a good response with excellent applications, and we now have SE², Rachael Mills who will provide our secretariat services; we look forward to working with SE² during the next three years.

Our treasurer Cati Smith has now gone on maternity leave and our treasurer's post is vacant at present. We are hopeful however, that this post will be filled shortly once approval has been given.

With the name change, we have also had to change our name with the bank this has also created some red tape issues.

7.2 East Midlands

Written update from: KL, Chair of ALEO EM

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

The last EMCAN and AGM meeting was held on Thursday 3 March at Corby Cube, Corby. Corby Borough Council provided the room and morning refreshments. The following were re-elected unopposed: Karen Lond – Chair, Darsh Chauhan – Vice Chair and Treasurer, David Young – Secretariat. Presentations included Chairs Update, Karen Lond: LGA policy update on energy, fuel poverty and Climate Local, Hillary Tanner: Electric Corby & Northants Warm Homes Partnership, Sara Earl. Following the Executive's decision to re-brand to ALEO, we discussed the pros and cons of changing our name also. It was agreed we would re-brand as ALEO East Midlands providing that Rob Leeson was able to adjust the logo so that East Midlands was after ALEO and that this was acceptable to the ALEO Executive.

The next EMCAN meeting will be held in June/July date, time and venue to be confirmed. No sponsorship for this meeting has been secured as yet.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

The last NEA East Midlands Fuel Poverty forum was held on 25 February 2016 at Ellipse Energy in Leicester; presentations included NEA Policy Update that included DECC review on Energy Efficiency policy and update on Warm & Healthy Homes fund.

The next NEA East Midlands Fuel Poverty Forum is expected to take place in June at Ellipse Energy in Leicester.

Details of any current projects:

Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council are looking to launch a white label for residents.

Lincolnshire Energy Switch has now saved Lincolnshire residents over £600,000 since the start of the project, currently signing a new contract to continue for a further two years.

Harborough have launched a project offering energy advice to local residents and have also installed solar panels on their Market Hall.

7.3 West Midlands**Written update from: RJ, Chair of ALEO WM****Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:**

Steering group meeting 5 April, to address the way forward for the West Midlands and the priorities that are key for the West Midlands. We have agreed the following priorities going forward:

1. ECO and importance of local delivery (also linked to devolution agenda)
2. Health Agenda – NICE, CCG and accessing funding
3. Responding to consultations with a specific focus on ECO, WHD, PPM and voluntary redress
4. Funding opportunities – Use of redress funding and sponsorship for west midlands
5. Ensure HECA is kept up the agenda and linked to FP etc.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

We are looking to hold a regional meeting in May/June linked to the ECO consultation. This will be held at Coventry City Council. As a region we will aim to hold 2/3 regional meeting for LA officers and HA officers and one regional forum/conference for wider membership.

Details of any current projects:

A number of West Midlands authorities are delivering 'boiler on prescription' type schemes with a focus on health and low income households. Challenge going forward is sustainability of funding so linked to key priorities of ECO and local delivery.

Green Communities project in Worcestershire and the six districts have exceeded EWI target of 750 with 820 sign-ups for works.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

Concerns about redress monies and its allocation! LA's need to be the led on the agenda and at a local levels potential for other orgs to take over LA works.

7.4 London**Written update from: JKM, Interim Chair of London HECA****Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:**

Our AGM will take place on 22 April in Camden. A number of constitutional changes are proposed, including changing the name from the London HECA Forum to ALEO London.

Details of any current projects:

The **Greater London Authority** in February launched a boiler scrappage scheme, where households (those of owner-occupiers or accredited private landlords) containing older, inefficient boilers can apply for £400 cashback to replace them. Applicants can use any Gas Safe Registered installer. Information on uptake is not yet available.

Enfield Council delivered an innovative Ground Source Heat Pump (GSHP) design in four identical, system-built tower blocks, combining a communal deep loop attached to individual heat pumps in each flat. In April they were awarded a Greater London Regional Energy Efficiency & Retrofit Award.

62 bore holes were dug to extract solar energy stored underground pumping this up to individual heat pumps in each property in the tower block. External wall insulation and new windows have also been installed to maximise the energy efficiency of these blocks.

This will reduce heating cost by more than 50% which will help lift residents out of fuel poverty and improve their wellbeing. Typical saving per flat are estimated at over £500 per annum. A number of the properties are being monitored by the BRE through an innovation project, URBANEER, sponsored by DECC, to assess energy usage pre, mid and post installation of measures. Output from this project will be invaluable to accurately model energy usage and inform design of future refurbishment projects. The heat pumps will also be connected to the internet for live monitoring of any faults and energy efficiency, this mean we are able to remotely optimise the system performance. They aim to make this project replicable and fundable in 2016 and 2017 to carry out further retrofitting in eligible properties.

This retrofit project will have a dramatic impact on the RdSAP rating of the blocks. On the average rating prior to retrofit was band G, they anticipate that upon completion all properties will achieve a band C.

Islington Council's Seasonal Health & Affordable Warmth Team (and London committee member Toby Morgan in particular) were featured on the BBC Panorama programme, 'Too Poor to Stay Warm', aired on 21 March.

Islington Council and the **Greater London Authority** are working together to explore overheating risk related to poorly-designed district heating schemes.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

Elections to the post of London Mayor and to the London Assembly will take place on 5 May. The leading candidates have both made a number of commitments on energy, including establishing a public energy supplier. The London HECA Forum has drafted a letter to Mayoral candidates for the five main parties (Labour, Conservatives, Greens, Liberal Democrats, UKIP) with a number of requests around fuel poverty and domestic sustainable energy.

7.5 North West

Written update from: DC, Chair of NW CAN

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

None held. Planned for 11 May. Name change to be discussed.

Any other comments, e.g. issues or barriers:

Loss of secretariat and expected loss of Vice Chair has led to a short lack of activity. Also loss of up to date contact list now resolved and plans in place to update. Still seeking sponsorship.

7.6 East

Written update from: Paul Hinsley, Chair of ALEO East

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

HECA East held its AGM on 13th April 2016, in partnership with NEA. Our next meeting which will be held in Summer 2016, again in conjunction with NEA.

Key points arising were:

- No member volunteered for the post of Chair or Vice Chair; therefore Paul Hinsley (current Chair) stated that he would fill the position until the next meeting.
- Those attending members with voting rights agreed 12 – 2 to adopt the East ALEO 'branding', although there was concern of focussing on 'energy officers'. Members were informed that the agenda and scope is set through interaction and input by themselves, ensuring the focus remains bespoke to their needs regardless of the name of the group.

- Meetings will be held at differing geographical locations within the Eastern area in order to maximise attendance.

Project updates and regional update:

Fenland District Council – is targeting Solid wall insulation to 1,000 properties 800 from the rental sector.

Epping Forest District Council – using RHI funding to upgrade housing stock.

Brentwood Borough Council – although they have no budget or allocated time they are undertaking mail drops with Aran services offering energy improvements. Participating in the Essex County Council (ECC) Big Community Energy Switch.

Broadland District Council – working with Norwich Council to install heating and insulation improvements to 440 homes.

Norwich Council – producing an affordable warmth strategy and installing heating upgrades.

Braintree and Uttlesford District Councils – installed solar PV on council properties (2 leisure centres, Councils main building and 2 other Community buildings). Taken a proactive approach to promoting ECC Big Community Energy Switch and as a result have received £7,000 referral fee. Working with Aran services to install energy improvements and setting up a handyman service. Continuing to work with CAB providing energy advice to households funded by the British Gas Warm Home fund. CAB are targeting those in fuel poverty providing energy switch advice and insulation measures. Uttlesford are installing 1,600 PV Solar panel installations on 1,600 council homes.

Maldon District Council – Part of ECC Big Community Energy Switch. Mail out in partnership with Aran Services has just finished.

East Cambridgeshire District Council – developing Action on Energy partnership with Green Deal Funding.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council – Boiler replacement, target of 100 funded by NEA Health Improvement Fund

Aran Services – has funding available for various heating installations

Scottish Power – has some ECO funding available for low cost solutions such as cavity wall and loft insulation which ends in March 2017. Warm Home Discount linked projects nationally providing remote access heating controls.

Essex County Council – Managed an Energy Switching Scheme with iChoosr for residents of Essex, with support of all Districts and Boroughs. The total average saving for all participating residents was approx. £929,000.

7.7 South West

Written update from: Neil Short, Chair of SW CAN

Unfortunately no-one from the SW Exec is able to attend.

We had our last forum in January and are meeting again this month to plan the next.

7. AOB

5.1 There was no further business.

8. Date of next meeting

7.1 The next meeting will be held on 14 July 2016 at Camden Town Hall, London.

9. Meeting with the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)

Following the Executive meeting, the ALEO Executive held a further meeting with the following representatives of DECC, to discuss ECO, the Private Rented Sector Energy Efficiency Regulations and the Home Energy Conservation Act, among other topics:

Carolina Valsecchi	DECC (ECO)
Hannah Ward	DECC (Fuel Poverty)
Patrick Allcorn	DECC (Local Energy)