

CAN Executive Meeting Minutes

11 January 2010 @ 10:30 am
London Borough of Camden Town Hall

Present:

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| Steve Adelizzi | (SA) | Representative – East |
| Kathy Alcock | (KA) | Chair – South East |
| Peter Chisnall | (PC) | Climate Energy |
| Rachel Jones | (RJ) | Chair – West Midlands |
| Rob Leeson | (RL) | CAN Secretariat |
| Karen Lond | (KL) | Vice Chair – East Midlands |
| Paul Maplethorpe | (PM) | Chair – East Pennine |
| Andy Stephenson | (AS) | CAN National Chair |

National Insulation Association (NIA):

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| Neil Marshall | (NM) | Chief Executive, NIA |
| Derek Horroks | (DH) | Project Manager Solid Wall Insulation NIA |

Apologies:

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| Colin Anderson | | Chair – South West |
| Revathi B | | Chair – North West |
| Darsh Chauhan | (DC) | CAN Secretariat |
| Alison Hartley | | Vice Chair – North West |
| Oliver Myers | (OM) | CAN National Deputy Chair (Meeting Chair) |

| 1 | Minutes from the Previous Meeting and Matters Arising | |
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| 1.1 | AS welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves. The minutes of the Executive meeting on 07/10/10 were approved as a true record. | |
| 1.2 | Matters Arising from 07/10/10 minutes: | |
| 1.3 | Item 1.3: Due to workload, AS has not yet been able to complete the business plan. | |
| 1.4 | Item 1.5: NIA representatives have been invited to attend after lunch today. | |
| 1.5 | Item 4.1: RL will circulate the results of the CAN survey within the next week or so. | RL |
| 1.6 | The CAN magazine was published in October as planned. | |
| 1.7 | Most of the outstanding payments from delegates at the previous two conferences have now been received. There are about six outstanding which we are continuing to chase. | |
| 1.8 | RL has not had time to work on the web forum but will make it a priority. There are concerns about monitoring the content. KA suggested looking at the Empty Homes Network and contacting David Gibbons who runs it for advice on moderating site content etc. Peter Chisnall also suggested looking at the Communities of Practice site. Originally RL was hoping to bring the web forum online along with a complete redesign of the website. However, since taking on Helen Atkins' duties in addition to his own he has had hardly any time to do this. AS said that this was understandable and that RL was doing a good job. RL will therefore try to get the forum running first before introducing any other major changes to the site. Affiliated membership for the Empty Homes site is free but there is a fee of £65 a year for full access to the site. We looked into charging for the website when we discussed membership fees in general. However we will put this on the agenda for discussion at the next meeting. | RL |
| 1.9 | Item 9: It was decided that CAN would respond to DECC's Microgeneration Strategy Consultation. | AS/ RL |
| 1.10 | Item 11.1: The list of bodies on which CAN is represented has been circulated. | |
| 1.11 | Item 13.1: The slides of Rachel Cole's presentation have been circulated. | |
| 1.12 | Item 14: Since there was no time available at the last meeting for regional updates, it was agreed | |

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| 1.13 | <p>that RL would send a request for a written update from each region which would be integrated into the minutes. However none were received. The group agreed that since the regional updates were a very important part of the meeting that it would be good if an outline of what is going on in each region could be forwarded to RL in advance of future executive meetings. RL will send a reminder with the agenda.</p> <p>Item 15.5: The joint foreword for Environmental Protection UK's "guidance on air quality and climate change – integrating policy within local authorities" document has been completed. As far as we know Environmental Protection UK have not yet published it.</p> | RL |
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| 2 | Climate Energy Sponsorship update | |
| 2.1 | <p>PC has been to the NW CAN regional forum meeting since the last executive meeting. He was also due to go to the SE CAN meeting but it was cancelled due to the loss of the Government Office.</p> <p>The only meetings PC is yet to attend are WM and NE. He will hopefully be able to attend their next meetings.</p> <p>PC reported that Climate Energy are extremely happy with their sponsorship of CAN.</p> <p>With regard to RL's workload and time limitations, PC offered that he would be willing to help out where possible such as undertaking research etc. The group thanked PC for his offer and will consider this for future work.</p> | |

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| 3 | Secretariat update and one-day conferences | |
| 3.1 | <p>The National Secretariat is currently focussed on organising the National Training Day, to take place in Birmingham on 28 February. The training day will share many aspects of the recent one-day conferences but is designed to be more of a workshop based training day. This will hopefully help local authority officers attend where they have been told they cannot pay to go to conferences.</p> <p>The Conference booking was opened before Christmas but as yet the booking numbers have been very disappointing. Exhibition space is selling well but delegate bookings are quite a bit down on what would usually be expected. RL will forward a list of people who have already booked to RJ and she will chase up those who she feels should definitely attend, as well as continuing to promote the conference to the regional membership.</p> | RL |
| 3.2 | <p>We were originally looking to hold the next event in Bristol but we are now considering holding a conference in the East, perhaps Cambridge, particularly since there is unlikely to be a CAN East regional conference this year. Which we visit first is yet to be decided.</p> | |
| 3.3 | <p>The next edition of the CAN magazine will be published in mid February. It will include an advert for the training day to help boost last-minute bookings. The article submission deadline is 21 January and all members are invited to submit articles.</p> | RL |
| 3.4 | <p>KL inquired about the outstanding delegate invoices from the previous two conferences and whether there was anything that could be done by the chairs to help. RL and DC will continue to chase the few remaining debts but will ask the regional chairs to help if necessary.</p> | RL/DC |
| 3.5 | <p>AS asked what people thought of the fortnightly e-bulletins that the Secretariat now produces. The group said that they found them useful and have received good positive feedback. They often forwarded them to others who they thought might be interested. RL invited everybody to send article suggestions to him for inclusion in the e-bulletins.</p> | |
| 3.6 | <p>The accounts for the previous financial year are now very nearly complete.</p> | |
| 3.7 | <p>The national contact list has been updated with the information from the regions who had responded to his request for members contact details.</p> | |
| 3.8 | <p>AS pointed out that since we will be going through a period of job losses and cuts as councils rationalise their services, if we can do a lot more to help raise the profile of the work which is being done e.g. through the e-bulletins, the forthcoming web forum and the magazine etc, it will be very helpful to members, particularly considering the amount of consultations DECC are producing at the moment. This also looks to be just the start and there will be a lot more for plans</p> | |

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| 3.9 | <p>for local authorities to be consulted on. It will be very important for LAs to get involved with this. It is all very well for government to say that LAs are important but often the people at the top do not see that.</p> <p>KA said that the last LGA bulletin said that various indicators were being proposed but it was hard to tell whether LAs will be involved in these or whether the data will be produced by government from some central source. AS said that the only one he had seen where LAs would be involved in collecting data would be the replacement for NI 185 on council's own emissions.</p> <p>KA asked how they would collect the fuel poverty data and how detailed is it going to be. Will they be able to judge the fuel poverty in their own areas? KL had a document from DECC which says that <i>"DECC statisticians have developed a methodology that more accurately measures fuel poverty at a local authority level and this does not impose a burden on local authorities"</i>.</p> <p>The only truly accurate method was thought to be a stock condition survey and it is unlikely they will be carrying out those due to the cost. They might be able to make an estimate based on the amount of housing stock older than a certain age and how many people are on benefits but this wouldn't be very reflective of fuel poverty and not many local authorities have this information anyway. Some do have full databases, such as Durham's for the entire County, but they are time consuming to keep updated. Durham has been advocating this approach for some time now.</p> <p>EST use figures from HEED but unfortunately these are not very accurate. Databases have many other potential uses such as planning or GIS data and shouldn't just be a cost that sits with housing.</p> <p>It I also currently a statutory duty for housing authorities to monitor the stock in their areas. Housing stock condition surveys are often not very accurate. There is a lot of cloning of data. JM pointed out that this was one of the problems with HECA surveys, it was mainly only people interested in climate change and had carried out work to make their houses more energy efficient who responded. The data was then extrapolated and gave the impression that many more measures had been taken across the borough than in reality.</p> <p>PC said that when the HECA came out, before HECAMon, there were some councils that did 100% surveys but some that did desktop surveys.</p> <p>Area based schemes can prove useful such as Warm Zones or Climate Energy.</p> <p>In KA's area they have snapshot information where they know the age of all the properties in a postcode overlaid with benefits information, which they use for targeting mailings etc. It is very expensive to get anything more accurate and this is generally sufficient, e.g. putting data from the NHS together with benefits data in a database can be very time consuming and expensive, however if there is communication between these agencies this can be used to target the areas where the fuel poor are most likely to be found. With job cuts this knowledge base will be lost.</p> <p>PC said that the HEONE database was good and that used census data coupled with benefits data.</p> <p>CAN will send an official letter to DECC asking for clarification on the methodology they are proposing for this new indicator.</p> | AS/ RL |
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| 5 | CAN Legal position with regions | |
| 5.1 | <p>Hestia Managed Services have sent a letter to the National CAN company directors threatening legal proceedings over an unpaid invoice to the CAN East region. National CAN have since written to Hestia pointing out that CAN East is an entirely separate entity from National CAN and as such we have no liability for their debts. CAN East have also written to Hestia supporting this position. Hestia have now accepted that this is the case and have withdrawn their threat to sue the directors of National CAN. However, it was felt that National CAN's legal position with regard to the regional bodies should be clarified with a legal disclaimer on the website to help prevent this situation from arising again. DC has proposed the following wording for the disclaimer which was approved by the group:</p> <p><i>Neither the National Executive Board, nor the National CAN Secretariat are bound by the decisions of any of the regional CAN fora. The regional CAN fora do not have the legal power to enter into legal or binding agreement on behalf of the National CAN Executive or national CAN Secretariat. Similarly any agreements entered into by the National CAN Executive board or the</i></p> | |

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| 5.2 | <p><i>national Secretariat on behalf of the National Executive are not binding on the regional fora unless expressly agreed.</i></p> <p><i>The national CAN organisation is a company limited by guarantee, its liability is limited to its own agreements and actions only. It will not be liable for any actions, agreements, debts etc of any of the regional fora.</i></p> <p>RL will add this disclaimer to the CAN website.</p> <p>Hestia have also written to the National CAN Secretariat within the last few days outlining their view of the legal position of the regional CAN bodies and the liability of the regional executives. Since the regions are not incorporated as companies or other official legal entities, they believe that individuals of the regional executive can be held personally liable for any contracts they enter into.</p> <p>It should be noted however that National CAN is incorporated as a company limited by guarantee and, as such, the National CAN company directors can not be held personally liable in this way for contracts entered into by National CAN.</p> <p>It should also be noted that this personal liability would not extend to all regional CAN members, such as individual local authority officers, and it is only the regional executives who could possibly be held personally liable for the contracts they enter into.</p> <p>SA confirmed that, at present, it was not yet clear whether CAN East's banking authority – Central Bedfordshire Council – would be liable for the CAN East situation with Hestia or whether liability would fall on the individual members of the CAN East Executive. They will be holding a meeting on 20 January to try to determine what happened and the steps that will be taken to resolve the issue as well as their legal position. The CAN-East regional forum meeting will then be held on 26 January to feed back to members.</p> <p>SA believes, based on the information he has received to date, that the situation possibly came about due to Hestia's invoice being lost or not being received by CAN East's banking authority, in February last year. This was possibly due to confusion during the merging of different local authorities to become a unitary authority where there was a transfer of responsibilities within the finance department and the CAN East Treasurer was left out of the loop to some extent. In the meantime, payments for other activities had been made and there were insufficient funds left available when Hestia's invoice did come to light.</p> | RL |
| 5.3 | <p>Although the group considered it unlikely that a similar situation would arise in any of the regions, (as, with the exception of CAN-East, the regional bodies generally just act as a forum and only contract their secretariat) It should also be remembered that liability could arise under different circumstances too, for example a personal injury claim. It is, therefore, recommended that each of the regions look at possible measures to safeguard against personal liability. For example it might be more appropriate for them to be set up as an incorporated body or consider whether some form of indemnity for the executive members would be appropriate. The step of becoming incorporated creates a company that, in effect, can be regarded legally as a person in its own right, which can then sue or be sued instead of the actual individuals involved.</p> <p>CAN East are somewhat unique in the way they run commercial projects in order to raise funding. In other regions it is often the case that a particular group of local authorities will get together to contract for a project. They then only use the CAN forum to report to members and the local authorities would generally be legally responsible.</p> | |
| 5.4 | <p>SA asked if a representative from National CAN would like to attend the meeting on 20 January. However, it was felt that it would be better for the issue to be dealt with just by CAN-East.</p> <p>RL will forward any information that National CAN has received on the matter that they feel might be helpful to SA.</p> | RL |

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| 6 | CESP letter to DECC | |
| 6.1 | DECC recently announced a series of CESP seminars around the county. When the details of these were circulated to members by the CAN Secretariat, several emails were received from members commenting on their experiences of CESP and the difficulties they had encountered with the scheme. | |

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| 6.2 | <p>It was subsequently decided to ask all members if they had comments on CESP with the view of collating the responses and sending them in an anonymised form, with a covering letter from the CAN Chair, to DECC for consideration. This was felt to be particularly worthwhile as many members indicated they would not be able to attend the DECC seminars to give their views. We received 23 responses from members on this.</p> <p>This has now been completed. The wording of the letter was approved by the group and the letter signed by AS. RL will send this to Steve Ives, the CESP Policy Lead at DECC.</p> <p>AS has had a conversation with Steve Ives about this. He has also asked Steve about rumours he had heard that the utilities have been saying that local authorities would not be part of the Green Deal. However Steve has said that this is not the case.</p> <p>JM enquired if AS had asked Steve Ives about the issue of energy companies asking LAs for high proportions of match funding for CESP, as this seems to be the main point of concern amongst members. Officially Steve Ives's response was that they need to collate all of the feedback they have received before they comment officially; however there does appear to be a mismatch with expectations.</p> <p>JM said that most of the existing CESP schemes are social housing based projects that would have gone ahead anyway.</p> <p>KA suggested that DECC had almost closed their ears to the criticisms and that there is no LA money available. AS seems to think they are now starting to take notice. RJ attended the Midlands CESP workshop, which she found very useful, and the utilities seemed to be aware that they were going to have to offer more funding. They have received around 100 CESP applications altogether, most of which are very small schemes, yet there should be at least 4-500 applications. All the LAs present at the workshop made it clear they would need to offer more money.</p> <p>JM suggested that LAs should play the waiting game and hold out for more money. SA agreed but added that Rachel Cole had suggested in her CESP presentation at the executive meeting on 7 October 2010 that the utilities have set the levels at a reasonable, if not generous level, based on what the carbon savings cost for what they achieve. The energy companies would say they need a higher uplift. JM pointed out that the utilities are posting profits of billions yet it is just a few million that is needed.</p> | RL |
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| 7 | Warm Front | |
| 7.1 | <p>DECC have opened a consultation on <i>Amending Reference to the Warm Front Scheme Eligibility Criteria</i>. They not only missed out all the LAs from their consultation list but CAN wasn't listed either. They have since added LAs to their list. KA has pointed out to DECC that CAN should have been on the list too.</p> <p>KA suggested that even if we say, reluctantly, that their proposals are probably the best option for restricting eligibility, we should take the opportunity to say that a lot of people in fuel poverty are not getting the benefits of Warm Front. There is also no extra consideration for people in off-gas areas, particularly when oil heating is so expensive. Warm Front is missing out too many people and the targeting of Warm Front was always wrong for addressing fuel poverty, particularly due to the link to benefits. AS said that originally Warm Front was not designed to address fuel poverty; this was added in later and then became the Government's mechanism for addressing fuel poverty. AS had read in the report that it will target something like 1.7 million households but 4.5 million are in fuel poverty so they are only targeting a small percentage.</p> <p>PC mentioned that there was also a consultation on the Warm Home Discount for a discount on peoples tariffs to cover the gap between Warm Front and the Green Deal.</p> <p>KL suggested we should ask how they came up with a SAP of 55 as the "magic figure". SA remembered something from NEA that recommended 55 SAP to make sure people aren't in fuel poverty, but that really you should aim for 60. KL said that the UK average is about 53 so they might have just rounded this up. AS said that for solid wall properties it is very difficult to get a SAP above about 35, although PM commented that if you put a combi boiler into a 3-bed, mid-terrace, solid-wall, mid-20s property you apparently have a SAP of 60 to 65 instantly.</p> <p>KA wondered how they were going to assess the SAP level in the first place before a property</p> | |

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| | <p>gets a WF grant. Will you have to do a SAP assessment first to find out if a house is eligible?</p> <p>PM thought it was peculiar that it says SAP 1 which has nothing to do with RD SAP. You either have an RD SAP assessor or a SAP assessor. It is possible that they mean they will do a full heating survey as well as a SAP assessment. PM said that the alternative is that they actually do mean RD SAP and they are going to use that to build a national database to provide fuel poverty data.</p> <p>We need to ask what SAP is being used - is it the Standard Assessment Procedure or the Rapid Data Standard Assessment Procedure?</p> <p>JM suggested they should perhaps just give the £100 million to LAs to install combi-boilers.</p> <p>On page 7 of the consultation document there is a reference to how Warm Front interacts with the new ECO. However it doesn't say how. It just takes them up to it with a three month overlap.</p> <p>It doesn't say what measures should be included. The group felt it would be best to only include boilers and not insulation.</p> <p>It was decided that CAN will provide a response to the Warm Front consultation.</p> | AS/ RL |
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| 8 | National Insulation Association NIA | |
| <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p> <p>8.3</p> | <p>NM and DH from NIA joined the meeting and introductions were made.</p> <p>Since SA would have to leave the meeting soon he asked them quickly if he could send them an email on a question from a CAN East member regarding the current method where insulation is stuffed into a plastic bag that hasn't been tested used by national installers not meeting the Consumer Credit Act. Neil Marshall said they would follow it up.</p> <p>NM has had some dealing with the National CAN Secretariat over the last 12 months and NM, RL and DC have met previously to discuss how they might be able to work more collaboratively with CAN. They are attending today to introduce themselves to the CAN executive, give an overview of their work and discuss how they can take this collaboration further.</p> <p>NIA have around 170 members. NM took over about five years ago, when there were about 80 members, after having been responsible for addressing fuel poverty at British Gas. NIA cover loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, internal and external wall insulation and hybrid solutions. The membership consists of about 25 insulation manufactures and system designers – including all the major players – and 135 installers and a number of specialist contractors.</p> <p>NIA covers England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.</p> <p>They operate on 3 levels:</p> <p>1: Implementing policy. Working closely with government, such as DECC and other departments. They are heavily involved with the CERT Extension and they are currently working with them on the new energy company obligations and developing the Green Deal and NIA sit on a number of fora DECC have set up for this on Quality & Accreditation, Capacity, Generating Demand and Assessment. They also have quarterly meetings with Eaga on Warm Front.</p> <p>2: Membership services. They offer support and advice e.g. financial advice and discounts on tools and equipment etc.</p> <p>3: Promoting insulation to the public. They have a website and work with DECC and EST to promote the benefits of insulation, who both use the NIA's postcode locator on their websites to direct people to NIA members.</p> <p>Solid wall insulation is the massive growth area. By about 2016/7 the majority of cavity and loft insulation installations will have been completed. There are currently 25 to 30,000 retrofit external and internal wall installations (EWI & IWI) per year and the Government are looking to increase this to 150 to 200,000 per year mainly through the Green Deal. There needs to be a ten-fold increase in capacity and in order to do that there must be a plan in place, DH is the lead on this.</p> <p>NIA have close relationships with LGA, and they are keen to give LAs an opportunity to participate. There is a risk that the Green Deal will become dominated by the big energy companies which they think will be very restrictive.</p> <p>DH used to co-own, and was the director of, the Horroks Group which was the largest solid wall insulation group in the country. He sold this to Eaga three years ago. He stayed with Eaga for a</p> | SA/ NM |

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| <p>8.4</p> <p>8.5</p> | <p>couple of years but his view of the market and theirs were not compatible and he left this time last year. He started off with NIA working on the challenges of rapidly expanding the solid wall insulation industry, which has started to pick up a lot of momentum. The market potential is 6.6 million solid wall homes suitable for internal or external wall insulation. The government targets are 200-250,000 homes to be insulated every year from 2012 to 2020, through the Energy Bill and the Green Deal. The average cost is around £8,000 so the market potential is around two billion pounds. Challenges are how to maintain quality standards, technical expertise, customer care etc and to protect the elderly and vulnerable in society, who own the majority of these homes.</p> <p>NIA members include 11 of the 12 EWI system designers, 30 active EWI installers, the 6 major internal wall insulation manufacturers and 6 internal wall insulation dedicated companies. They are by far the major trade association.</p> <p>They have set up an External Review and Development Stakeholder group on solid wall insulation, which includes about 12 organisations, such as DECC, Communities and Local Government, LGA, BPA etc. The first meeting takes place in February. They are looking to identify barriers such as planning.</p> <p>There are four groups: Dedicated EWI Members' Group; Dedicated IWI Members' Group, a Marketing & PR Group and the External Stakeholder Review and Development Group.</p> <p>SWIGA (the Solid Wall Insulation Guarantee Agency) is a guarantee scheme which includes quality insurance, a training skills programme, best practice guidelines, an approved installer system, and an external independent surveillance scheme regulated outside of the industry. In terms of consumer protection, it covers a £15,000 per property guarantee. There is also an arbitration service between consumer and installer.</p> <p>There is a five point plan for training to NVQ level and they are currently working on a national operational standard on IWI and developing apprenticeship schemes. At the moment the big question is over Treasury funding. They have put the platform in together but obviously the Government will need to fund it.</p> <p>This is the first time they have had full 'buy in' from all stakeholders.</p> <p>The plan is to have the infrastructure in place by around October this year, ready for the Green Deal, etc.</p> <p>KA asked if there is any indication under the Green Deal what level of subsidy there will be for solid wall insulation? KA believes that Solid Wall insulation might be the one part of the Green Deal which will actually work as there is a subsidy for loans. She feels it is unlikely that people will want to take out a loan for cavity wall insulation when their savings will be swallowed up by the loan for around £600 particularly when it has previously been available at a much lower cost. PC said that in the long term they will have to externally insulate many homes that have cavity wall insulation anyway. Also, the elderly are some of the least likely people to take on loans.</p> <p>The energy suppliers will be obligated to provide top-up funding towards the cost of SWI under the Green Deal, even if it's not one of their own jobs, but they have not yet specified how much.</p> <p>ECO, the proposed replacement for Warm Front, will be targeting vulnerable people and hard-to-treat-properties, not cavity wall. NIA have a half-day planning session with DECC in about a months time on ECO and the Green Deal to talk about what is going to drive cavity and loft insulation. There is no indication that they have ramped up activity under the CERT Extension, as expected, even with cheap prices at the moment, as people are cautious about spending money. The expected volumes of insulation have not been delivered as CERT funding was often used for things like light bulbs. This has now changed under the CERT Extension as they have to provide over 60% of the target from professionally installed insulation measures.</p> <p>DH asked about how CAN feeds into the debate on the Green Deal etc. AS clarified that previously CAN was the Home Energy Conservation Association and focussed on the Home Energy Conservation Act. The focus has changed slightly but CAN's main remit is still on domestic issues. We have a partnership with the LGA and have a seat on their Environment Panel. We are included in the workstream for the LG Group's offer to DECC on a new stakeholder panel. We are currently working to increase our links with DECC.</p> <p>It was felt that it was important that NIA and CAN tighten their working partnership together. In the current climate there also needs to be more joined-up working between bodies, generally. NIA represent installers while CAN represent the people who are trying to get the schemes going, so the organisations provide a good sounding board for each other.</p> | |
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| <p>8.6</p> | <p>NIA hold quarterly local forums - four in England, one in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. In the afternoon they have external guests which could be an opportunity for CAN to engage with the industry.</p> <p>NIA also issue expressions of interest to their members on behalf of local authorities for installation work in their areas.</p> <p>JM asked what the pay-back period and potential savings were for external wall insulation.</p> <p>DH pointed out that each individual property must be treated differently – some require scaffolding, guttering, gas flues etc. The average cost is around £8,000 but it can range from around £3,000 to £30,000. The typical saving is around £400 per year so the average payback is around 20 years.</p> <p>JM said that most of their properties are 2-3 bed terraces so there isn't a lot of external wall to insulate. They also have a lot of trouble just trying to give away loft insulation. He suggested it would be better to fund amendments to the CERT scheme e.g. making the thresholds 100mm rather than 60mm and solutions for people who use their loft for storage.</p> <p>JM asked how many or the 30,000 insulations a year are properties that are being gutted anyway rather than people who won't want the disruption of internal or external wall insulation. DH said that most will be social housing schemes taking the opportunity to do a complete refit. Economies of scale will also bring the cost down. There is a case-study whereby works were funded for EWI or "all the measures", which could include roof etc. In the first-phase 25% elected to have EWI but by the end of the scheme this was up to around 70% as people had seen the other benefits. EWI transforms the whole house and the community, increasing the value of the house in addition to the insulation value of around £400 per year. Around 20 different benefits of EWI have been identified, many of which even people in the industry are generally unaware.</p> <p>AS asked if it would be possible to create a document LAs could use to persuade people of the benefits and also point out the considerations when choosing between IWI and EWI. In many cases they are complimentary to each other and a piecemeal approach is appropriate.</p> <p>There is a lot of misunderstand surrounding SWI and, until recently, government policy was being developed without a proper understanding of SWI.</p> <p>PM asked if there would be some sort of standard for material and how they can be used appropriately, as there is a raft of different finishes, materials and installation methods available. Through the case studies and working with the LGA and local government, it has come out quite strongly that it is important that the materials are fit for the environment. There was also a uniform look imposed and people could choose to buy into it or not. As mentioned, by the end of the scheme there was around a 70% uptake when people had seen the benefits to their neighbours.</p> <p>JM mentioned that there was a scheme where they were told they needed planning permission because the front of the properties would project further into the street. DH said that they were trying to bring everybody together to agree on such issues, for example in conservation areas planners will need to become more flexible. The other important issue they are trying to address is government funding. PM said that in Rotherham the planners have made it mandatory to have a £300 bat survey before installing EWI as it may disturb bats entering the house. DH feels that there is a lack of joined-up working between many local authority departments on these issues.</p> <p>NM asked if it was worth having a CAN representative on their new stakeholders group. It was agreed that CAN would find a representative to attend the first meeting at DECC's offices in London in February.</p> | <p>RL</p> |
| <p>8.7</p> | <p>KL expressed concern, that there seems to be a real lack of confidence amongst the CAN executive in the proposals for the Green Deal. When CERT and Warm Front are finished there seems to be very little to help the fuel poor. AS is worried that the Green Deal will turn into a double glazing and boiler replacement programme, since that seems to be all people are interested in. KL added that, in addition, the Government are taking powers away from OFGEM, who were the only people who controlled the fuel supplies to run the CERT schemes, and giving responsibility for fuel poverty to the fuel suppliers. KL feels that this is a bit like "putting Red Riding Hood with the Wolf". She has also heard similar opinions from other officers with responsibility for fuel poverty and energy efficiency.</p> <p>NM offered to write to their contact at DECC in support of CAN. The group felt that this would be very helpful.</p> <p>It was felt that it would be useful to express the CAN executive's concerns to DECC at an earlier</p> | <p>AS/ RL</p> |

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| 8.8 | <p>stage as possible.</p> <p>It is the groups understanding that the Green Deal loan repayments will be tied to the energy bills associated with the house. This will possibly make a property harder to sell and hence put people off.</p> <p>There is also very little with regard to the private rented sector. As councils, we have been asking for access to EPCs for years to see what is happening in the private rented sector. However, under the Green Deal provider companies will be given access to the EPC database.</p> | RL/ NM |
| 8.9 | <p>NM asked the group whether they were aware that some local authorities, who are not aware that NIA are now in the marketplace, specify membership of INCA to tender for certain jobs. This is preventing companies that are members of NIA but not INCA from tendering. This didn't seem to be well known. The CAN Secretariat have previously circulated an email on this and it was mentioned in the CAN magazine. It was felt that it was worth sending out another email to members on the issue.</p> <p>The group thanked NM and DH for attending.</p> | |

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| 9 | Regional Updates | |
| 9.1 | <p>AS for NE CAN:</p> <p>There is very little to report as there has not been a meeting since the last CAN executive meeting. There is now a new Chair, Steve Hunter.</p> | DC |
| 9.2 | <p>PM for EP CAN:</p> <p>There is also very little to report as their last meeting was cancelled due to snow. This has been rescheduled for 14 January.</p> | |
| 9.3 | <p>JM for London CAN:</p> <p>As a region, they are concerned about the Green Deal and other plans and are looking to get their views across. For example, with solid wall insulation, for mid-terraces and flats there is not a lot of external wall to insulate. No one seems to know exactly what's going on but it is an opportunity to get our thoughts known.</p> <p>They are concerned that London, historically, hasn't had its fair share of CERT funding.</p> <p>They are working well as a region and are holding out together for full CESP funding.</p> <p>There was a planned, LDA funded, RE:NEW retrofitting scheme, which is now on hold as the LDA is to be abolished.</p> | |
| 9.4 | <p>KL for EM CAN:</p> <p>The last meeting was on 19 October. The next meeting will be 19 January. Speakers will include The Nottingham Energy Partnership on their CESP scheme, the Home Energy Lincolnshire Partnership (HELP) Scheme and the Northamptonshire Energy Efficiency Partnership on Renewables for Vulnerable Households.</p> <p>Nothing else has been fed through to KL to report.</p> | |
| 9.5 | <p>RJ for WM CAN:</p> <p>There was a steering group meeting in November looking at how they would move WM CAN forward particularly in light of some of the issues surrounding the Government Office.</p> <p>They have been looking at how to improve the format of their meetings. In particular, no one was feeding back to speakers. Often no one would respond when they asked for questions and it was hard to get conversation going. They have implemented some ideas from SW CAN at their December meeting, with the forum held around a table with one key-note speaker, from a local authority only, talking about a project they were working on. There had been a lot of complaints about speakers such as contractors giving a marketing presentation. In the December meeting, the speaker was Walsall Council about their successful CESP project which was the first British Gas CESP project. There is then a round the table session where each LA gives an update on what they are doing, followed by the other members such as EST, Mark Group etc.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the CAN event in Birmingham and they suggested that we would</p> | |

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| 9.6 | <p>have to sell it as a training day as they can't get money for attending conferences.</p> <p>The Government Offices are going, so they have lost their free venue. They currently have no sponsorship for WM CAN. They will probably circulate the venue around local authorities to reduce costs.</p> <p>The next meeting will be some time in April. They would like to keep it with NEA in the morning and CAN in the afternoon as this worked well.</p> <p>KA for SE CAN:</p> <p>KA had to leave the meeting but forwarded the following comments by email afterwards:</p> <p>"Not much to report as our last meeting in November had to be cancelled at the last minute when GOSE suddenly withdrew the offer of the meeting room which they wanted to use themselves. We have since been told that we cannot use their rooms for our next meeting either due to the closure of GOSE. Our Feb meeting is now being held at Guildford Borough Council but we are not sure that we can continue with this arrangement in the future.</p> <p>Apart from that the only thing to report is really a concern that the cutbacks in local authorities seem to be having a high impact on staff involved in domestic energy conservation and fuel poverty work. Many are being made redundant and their work is not really being picked up by other officers. This will inevitably have an impact on SE CAN and participation in the regional forums."</p> | |
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| 10 | AOB | |
| 10.1 | <p>Item 1.11 of the last Warm Front Strategy Group meeting minutes says that the Government is no longer collecting data on NI 187 and apparently the HECA data was delayed due to IT problems, for which they have apologised. WF would like to know if the data was still required for the future.</p> <p>The group felt that this data was still useful. For example it is useful to know how many households in an area have had WF measures and how much they cost. It is then possible to work out how much work they are doing in an area compared to previous years. When they finish it will also be possible to calculate a total spend for WF in a county.</p> <p>AS's understanding is that they will continue the dashboard.</p> <p>RL will therefore feed back to Shida Bassita that this data is still required.</p> | RL |
| 10.2 | <p>KL asked if CAN will do anything to get their thoughts across on the Green Deal.</p> <p>The group feel that LA officers have tried many different loan schemes in the past and they know what works and what doesn't. Many members believe that the premise is wrong and that people will not take on loans. The elderly, vulnerable and fuel poor are generally even more reluctant to take on loans. We need to mention our concerns over the fuel poor at as earlier stage as possible. It seems like they are simply trying to fund a scheme without putting money in. If there is to be funding from the energy companies then this will further increase fuel bills and also hit the fuel poor.</p> <p>There is also uncertainty over who will provide the money for the loans and concern that LAs will not be able to put their logo next to a brand logo as it will appear that they are endorsing that brand.</p> <p>It was felt by some of the group that there is a very high admin cost to running a national scheme. For example Warm Front have to charge much more to install a boiler than it would cost if the LAs were given the money directly to employ their own installers.</p> <p>It was agreed that when NM provides us with details of their DECC contact, we will put a letter together to explain our concern that there is no representation at the LA delivery level and that CAN would be able to provide this and we would like to be involved.</p> | AS/ RL |

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| 11 | Date of Next Meeting | |
| 11.1 | The date of the next meeting has been set for 13 April 2011. | |