

CAN Executive Meeting Minutes
13 July 2011 @ 10:30 am
London Borough of Camden Town Hall

Present:

Kathy Alcock	(KA)	Chair – South East
Colin Anderson	(CA)	Chair – South West
Darsh Chauhan	(DC)	CAN Secretariat
Peter Chisnall	(PC)	Climate Energy
David Colbourne	(DCo)	Chair – North West CAN
Rachel Jones	(RJ)	Chair – West Midlands
Rob Leeson	(RL)	CAN Secretariat
Karen Lond	(KL)	Vice Chair – East Midlands
Paul Maplethorpe	(PM)	Chair – East Pennine
John Kolm-Murray	(JKM)	Chair – London
Oliver Myers	(OM)	Deputy Chair – CAN
Gareth Baynham-Hughes	(GBH)	Head of Hills Fuel Poverty Review Secretariat
Abigail Burrige	(AB)	LG Group

Apologies:

Steve Adelizzi		Representative – CAN East
Cliff Duff		Vice Chair – North East
Kim Herivel		Vice Chair – South West
Jane Mears		Vice Chair – East Pennine
Andy Stephenson	(AS)	Chair – CAN

Welcome and Introductions

OM welcomed the group and asked everyone to introduce themselves.

1. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

1.1 *Matters Arising from AGM 13/04/11 minutes:*

Item 2.2. An email was circulated asking for any further nominations for the positions elected to at the AGM. No further nominations were received so the post holders elected at the April executive meeting stand as valid.

Item 2.3 Steve Adelizzi has declined the role of overseeing the Treasurer's work. Nominations were invited for the role from those present. No offers were made.

Action: RL to send an email requesting nominations for overseeing Treasure's work. RL

1.2 Item 3.3. It was agreed that from next year, the annual CAN report and Financial report should be prepared and circulated prior to the AGM each year.

Action: RL to prepare and circulate reports before the AGM next year. RL

1.3 Item 3.7 An address confirmation form will be circulated with the next edition hard copies of Carbon Action News also asking which members would prefer not to receive a hard copy. As there was an advert in the latest edition it was decided that this issue would be circulated to the full list before removing names for the next issue.

Action: RL to prepare a form and send out with CAN News RL

- 1.4 *Matters Arising from the Executive Meeting 13/04/11 minutes:*
 Item 1.4 Requests were sent for written regional updates prior to the Executive meeting. Only two responses were received. It was agreed to change the template and continue to request updates from regions prior to the Executive Meeting.
Action: RL to edit reporting template to include meetings, events, projects and other comments, issues and barriers. The request will also include a softly worded reminder that this is a responsibility of the executive members. **RL**
- 1.5 Item 1.8 Nothing has been heard from AS re the meeting with Chris Leigh and other DECC representatives. This will be clarified with AS and Chris will possibly be invited to the next Executive meeting instead.
Action: RL to clarify with AS. **RL**
- 1.6 Item 1.17 The following wording will be added to item 5.3 from the minutes of 13 January 2011:
As regions are autonomous and will have different requirements, National CAN cannot make recommendations on the above and therefore can only encourage regions to look at their legal status and decide the best course of action based on the requirement of their region.
- 1.7 There has been very little information regarding the CAN East financial situation. Once the audit report is received CAN will consider writing to the Eastern region local authorities.
Action: RL to ask Steve Adellizi if the report is available **RL**
- 1.8 Item 3.2 The CAN web forum has been updated following suggestions.
- 1.9 There has been a lot of new information on EST since the last meeting.
Action: RL will issue Andy Deacon with an open invitation to attend future executive meetings. **RL**
- 1.10 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record. It was agreed that less detailed minutes could be produced in the future focussing on the consensus view. It will be the role of the Chair to make sure a consensus has been reached and clearly stated.

2. Climate Energy Sponsorship / Update

- 2.1 Climate Energy are happy with the collaboration to date. A progress meeting was held before the Executive meeting with the Secretariat and no major issues were identified to be reported to the Executive.
- 2.2 Climate Energy has now acquired CEN. The CEN offices are located in Croyden and their work will focus greatly on the Green Deal. The CEN workshop will be repeated at the next one day event.

3. Secretariat update

- 3.1 *Work Programme for the next three months:*
 This will focus on the next two one-day events, distributing the next edition of CAN News, chasing payments for the previous one day events, closing the current financial year and preparing for the new financial year, work on the website and the members survey.
 The annual report for the year 2009/10 is in the next edition of CAN News. A further report is at the beginning of the annual accounts.
Action: Annual reports to be published before future AGMs. **RL**
- 3.2 Finances/Magazine: The Secretariat is continuing to chase any unpaid invoices. We are still being conscious with spend. So far the financial situation of CAN is healthy with the sponsorship from Climate Energy.
- 3.3 News Magazine: The electronic version of the next edition is now available to download from the website, and hard-copies will be circulated in the next few days. The edition has an advert from Radfle. The group felt it was good to actively seek any further adverts for the following editions.

It was also agreed to send out a reply slip with each hard copy to confirm who still wants to receive a hard copy of the Magazine.

- 3.4 PC reported that a member had said that they were unable to download the current edition due to the size of the file. RL agreed to look into this issue.

Action: RL/DC to look for further advertisers for the next editions and check if Climate Energy are happy with the adverts.

RL / DC

Action: RL to send out reply slips with the hard copies of the News Magazine.

RL

- 3.5 Website/forum: Approximately 50 people have signed up to the forums. It was agreed to have general discussion board for members only and one for the Executive. RL will investigate the possibility of a sign up button to subscribe to email alerts from all forums at once, rather than individually subscribing.

Action: RL to make the necessary amendments/additions.

RL

- 3.6 CAN Members Survey: The Secretariat confirmed that there will be a placement student with them for six weeks from August. The student will be from Germany. It was felt that the student could lead on the members' survey for this year. The Executive decided that a good focus of the survey for this year would be looking at the changing role of Officers in context of the political changes and the implications of the non-repeal of HECA and what Officers would like to see happen from this.

Action: Secretariat to circulate some draft questions/objectives to the Executive. Executive to give feedback on the questions.

RL

4. One-Day Conferences

- 4.1 The May Conference report: is in the current edition of CAN News. The day was well attended though there were fewer feedback forms received compared to previous events. The workshops rated highly this time. The updates from AB are also very popular and consistently rate very highly on the feedback forms. There were a few comments made about the sessions over running. There were about nine no-shows and so they will need to be invoiced for the fee. The exhibitors seemed happy with the exhibition area.

Action: Secretariat to chase payment

RL

Action: Future Conference Chairs should be prompted to keep sessions to time.

RL

- 4.2 Next Conference: It was agreed that the next one-day event will be held on 28 September at the Somerset Cricket Ground in Taunton, Somerset. It was agreed to repeat the last theme of AN ERA OF CUTS – Reinforcing the climate change and fuel poverty agendas. The agreed focus of the event is: Green Deal, The Hills Fuel Poverty Review and Policy Updates e.g HECA.

Workshop leaders should be asked to prepare an interactive workshop and should provide an outline of their workshop beforehand.

RL

- 4.3 In view of rising costs and minimal income from the events it was agreed that the exhibitor fee would be increased from £200 to £250. PC commented that the rate was very good value.

Action: Increase exhibitor fees with the possibility of tying it into a magazine advert.

RL

Action: Confirm workshops and content with deliverers.

RL

- 4.4 The next event after Taunton will be held in Leicester around late November or early December. The autumn edition of the CAN magazine will feature the report from the September event and promote the Leicester event.

- 4.5 So far, the feedback at the one-day events has been mixed about whether officers prefer a one-day format or would like to see a return to the two-day conference. One of the arguments put forward was that the majority of delegates who prefer a one-day format are the ones who attend the one-day events.

Action: RL to create an online poll on the forum to ask members if they prefer a one-day format or two-day annual event. A question on this will also be incorporated into the members' survey.

RL

CPD Certificates at the Conference: This was seen as valuable for members as they can use the one-day events as part of an on-going training programme. PC confirmed that they too issue their

own CPD certificates. It is believed that there are fees associated with accreditation with the CPD scheme so it is likely that CAN will issue an unaccredited certificate to members if possible.

Action: Check if CAN needs to be accredited to provide a CPD and what wording/logos etc can / cannot be used on CPD certificates

RL

5. Representation at meetings and responses to consultations

- 5.1 An email from Cliff Duff was circulated to the Executive stating that *“it is paramount that CAN take very strong line to obtain a dedicated point of contact inside DECC in order to have a robust communications route into DECC. I would suggest that a joint letter be produced from National CAN where all of the CAN exec from LA’s sign to lobby for a fixed communications route into DECC. I have been in this sector for 15 years and this is the biggest challenge that we have ever faced with the smallest amount of information and feedback”*

OM notified the group of the changes that have taken place at DECC such as the cutting various roles including the public sector contact unit. If contact can be established then this would be a good thing. They probably are not very communicative because they feel there isn’t a lot they can say at present.

It was agreed that the Secretariat should prepare a response to Cliff’s email and seek a dialogue with DECC where appropriate.

Action: OM to assist Secretariat to send a response to Cliff and DECC.

RL/OM

- 5.2 The National Insulation Association (NIA) has sent CAN an email highlighting the following:

The CCC annual report to Parliament identified that there was a 30% decline in CWI and professional loft installations in 2010 v 2009 and SWI volumes were low and they say that this underperformance against indicators highlights the crucial importance of ensuring the new policies provide sufficient incentives to improve energy efficiency in the large proportion of the housing stock that currently lack adequate insulation.

They call for Govt to set firm and ambitious targets under ECO/GD for completing all CWI and LI by 2015 and 2m solid walls by 2020 to provide confidence over the scale of delivery.

They also recommend that to ensure that the required number of CWI, LI and SWI jobs gets done the measures should be included in the ECO and an ambitious obligation placed on the suppliers to deliver these – basically CCC are saying that the market based GD mechanism should not be relied upon to deliver the insulation volumes – greater certainty is needed. At present DECC are planning to exclude able to pay CWI and LI from the ECO!

NIA have asked whether CAN could undertake some supportive lobbying to influence the shape of the ECO/GD Consultation?

It was agreed that loft and cavity wall insulation was still an issue for several areas although a lot of works had now been completed. The Executive wanted further clarification on the source of the information used. CAN will reply to NIA seeking further clarification and stating that we are supportive of this and we will be feeding into conversation on the Green Deal. If we feel that there is not sufficient promotion and subsidies for the remaining cavities we will make our view heard.

Action: RL to draft response to NIA.

RL

6. Warm Front

- 6.1 RL reported that he had received no responses from Shida Bassiti to his emails attempting to set up the next Warm Front Steering Group Meeting. It was reported that Warm Front has undergone huge restructuring and Shida is no longer working for them. There are three regional managers: Nikki Jones, Kirsty Brown and Gail Marriott.

Action: RL to contact the above with a view to arranging the next Strategy Group meeting.

- 6.2 Local authorities have been issued with the following information from Carillion:

Please note that with immediate effect all Warm Front installations that incur a customer contribution must be paid in full before any work commences and this includes any customer

contribution being funded by a loan/grant from a local authority. Further to the recent update that was circulated I would like to remind you that since the Scheme opened for new applications in April all quotations for heating work are valid for 30 days only.

Action: DCo will forward the letter his local authority has drafted in response to this to the Executive. CAN will then consider writing to Carillion with the Executive's views on this.

DCo/RL

7. Regional Updates

7.1 RJ for West Midlands CAN:

The last regional meeting took place on the 22 June and was hosted by Wolverhampton City Council. The meeting overviewed the conference and then we had a number of tabled discussions. The first being:

Warmfront and concerns around client contributions funded by the council are required to be an upfront payment which for many LA's is not a feasible option. One LA had solved this problem by registering as a contractor. Issue two was concerns about jobs that were 'cancelled' under the previous scheme as clients no longer fulfilling the new criteria. The other issue raised was the poor response times to queries.

The second subject was of course the Green Deal and how this could be delivered in the West Midlands and general comments about the implementation of the scheme. Birmingham are one of the LA's working closely with DECC on this and are looking to be a provider of the Green Deal – have approached other LA's for regional consortium. Concern was expressed that the LA's that are apart of DECC's current group are unitary authorities, and it was felt that representation from district/borough's is important especially where you have two-tier authorities. Other points for consideration were: debts already on property e.g home repairs assistance; concerns around impartiality of surveyors and selling of other items/services in the home; resource implication for LA's; importance of local contractors; associated repairs – particular concern around ECO; need for Smart Meter installations and how will this dovetail together.

In addition we have a roundtable session looking at work around the region. This included:

Walsall – highly successful CESP project led by RSL but provided funding for private sectors housing. Just about to start second project, which will look at a borough boiler replacement scheme for 'G' rated boilers funded through a land charge; Coventry – 5 CESP schemes in area all lead by RSL's, 3 of those schemes are still awaiting the utility offer. Wolverhampton – running a energy monitor loan scheme; Wychavon – running an area of highest need project with a health and fuel poverty key to the project – working on a street by street approach. Stoke – has 2 CESP schemes. Has a well established Warmzone that is looking at how it can involve with the Green Deal. 1000 PV installations going ahead through rent a roof scheme. The council has set up at low carbon task group to be a low carbon sustainable city – have signed a memorandum of understanding; Stratford DC – are working with residents to help them set up oil buying clubs, are also running a pilot scheme for Park Homes using the Instagroup.

7.2 CA for SW CAN:

At the last SW CAN meeting it became apparent that there is an increasing number of people contacting local authorities for advice on PV and the Feed-in Tariffs. Councils in the South West have therefore been getting together to determine what useful information they can give.

There was also a discussion on the Green Deal and CESP. CESP is not very big in the South West, although Bristol and Plymouth have schemes.

There was a useful update on Warm Front.

Professor Tony Norton of Exeter University gave an interesting talk on a new town in Devon, involving thousands of new houses, combined heat and power, a new railway station and freight terminal etc.

Professor Ian Stewart from Plymouth University is a very good speaker for a refresher on climate change. He has made three TV series with the BBC on geomorphology and geology etc.

There was fallout from the discussion with Steve Ives from DECC at the previous meeting on the Green Deal. There are three categories that DECC envisage local authorities will fall into with

regard to the Green Deal. There is only Bristol in the first category, a few councils like Plymouth in the second and the majority in the third.

The SW CAN Blog which CA maintains is going well. The recent item titled "the Green Deal is Dead" received a lot of hits, which was a slightly "tongue in cheek" post referring to the postponement of the Energy Bill.

There are lots of county-wide groups forming in the South West, with councils working together on projects such as "Cosy Devon", an insulation scheme, for example.

There is strong interest on a local authority led Green Deal that brings together RHI, FiTs, water conservation, etc, and how they can morph their existing county-wide products into the Green Deal.

7.3 KA for SE CAN:

For the second time in the last year, they have had to cancel the SE CAN forum meeting at the last minutes. The first time due to the loss of the room due to the demise of the Government Office and this time, due to a planning enquiry overrunning. This has now been rearranged, but the South East have not been able to hold a forum meeting since February.

There will be a speaker on a "Systemised approach to fuel poverty" as well as a representative of Climate Energy speaking on retrofitting solid wall insulation. Abigail Burrige will also be speaking.

Hampshire are about to launch a county-wide, area-based discount insulation scheme.

7.4 DCo for NW CAN:

Since the last CAN Executive meeting NW CAN has held one regional meeting in May. We have appointed a new Secretariat, Nicole Cook of Blackburn Council and are in the process of electing the Chair and Vice chair. Vice Chair is a new role but given the volatility of officer posts was considered prudent to maintain greater continuity and spread the workload. We have lost some of the local advice service provision in the North of the region and are adjusting to the changes of structure among many partners (EST, NEA and loss of the RDA). We have welcomed the re-opening of Warm Front although find some of the new administrative procedures a barrier to delivery. Subsequently we have written to DECC and Carillion to express our concerns (we are concerned about rules on prepayment for works and a 30 day quote period). The NW was represented at the recent "Green Deal and Big Society" and "National CAN" conferences. NW CAN also submitted a response to the Hills Fuel Poverty review based on our CAN workshop.

7.5 KL for EM CAN:

There is now a new Secretariat for the East Midlands region.

The last meeting was held on 22 June. Steve Ives from DECC came to speak on the Green Deal. Martin Davis from British Gas talked about their Go Early scheme as well as Lance Saxby from EST on the delivery of the Powerful Partnership and Ellie Holrich-Smith from Efficiency East Midlands about their regional approach to the Green Deal.

After lunch there was a discussion on the Green Deal. The feedback has been posted on the EM CAN Website.

The next meeting will be held in September or October.

7.6 PM for EP CAN:

The last forum meeting was held on July 15 mainly focussing on the Green Deal although there was some discussion on Warm Front.

The Kirklees Warm Zone is coming to an end and the Rotherham Warm Zone is about to start, which is funded by Banks, a wind turbine company.

The next meeting has been postponed until August.

7.7 JKM for London

The last forum meeting was in May.

The Fair Insulation Funding paper, produced by Westminster and Islington and Councils and was discussed. London has 15% of the population but only received 5% of first two years' the CERT funding. There is anecdotal evidence that the same was true of EEC. There is concern that the same will be true for the Green Deal. A campaign has been started based on the paper which has been backed by councils and the London Council Transport and Environment

Committee and the GLA is generally supportive. They are looking to arrange a meeting with DECC on the matter.

The London Assembly has recently conducted an investigation on fuel poverty in the region. They are working with UCL, NEA and the London Fire Brigade to produce some proposals on the issue. London is fairly unique as it is a wholly urban area large enough to have many hard to treat properties and flats. They have therefore recommended that they adopt warm zones similar to low-carbon zones in London.

The delayed RE:New programme is supposed to be finished by March although some boroughs are doing better than others.

There was also a speaker from the Government on the Green Deal. The next forum meeting will also focus on this.

The region has lost its sponsorship, as Carillion took over Eaga and pulled out of the sponsorship deal.

8. Gareth Baynham-Hughes, DECC

8.1 Gareth Baynham Hughes said he was not representing DECC on this occasion – for the duration of the Hills Review of fuel poverty, he was acting independently.

Gareth explained that fuel poverty had originally been defined in the late 80s early 90s. The Warm Homes Energy Conservation Act 2000 then set an obligation on the Government to produce a strategy, which was subsequently published in 2001, to deliver a scenario whereby no households live in fuel poverty, as far as practically possible, within 15 years i.e. by the end 2016. In 1996 there were around 4 to 5 million households in fuel poverty in the UK. This figure dropped to 1 million in 2004 but has been rising since. The statistics for 2009 are due to be published tomorrow.

In the Comprehensive Spending Review, it was announced that there would be a review of fuel poverty and, in March, Professor John Hills was appointed to lead it. Professor Hills has previously sat on the Pensions Commission, has conducted a review of social housing for the Government and worked on the recent National Equality Panel.

The Review has a broad remit. The team has started by looking at fuel poverty from first principles and have issued a call for evidence in order to gather as much information on people's opinions as possible. Questions to be addressed include: what are the causes of fuel poverty and what are the impacts on different types of people and is fuel poverty different from general poverty?

If it is decided that there are no major differences between fuel poverty and poverty generally, the review will go no further. Although no conclusions have yet been reached it looks likely that there are enough differences to research further.

The second stage will be to address whether the current definition of fuel poverty captures the important issues and enable Government to take effective action and undertake analysis of the policy landscape and determine how spending translates into reduction in fuel poverty numbers.

Many of the respondents to the Call for Evidence were of the view that concentrating on the definition is just a distraction from the action needed although many others thought there was an important link between the definition, the strategy and the action. Some suggest that it is just important to find fuel inefficient properties and increase the average SAP rating, whereas others might prefer to concentrate on targeting vulnerable people.

Changing the definition has the potential to considerably change the number and type of people defined as fuel poor. For example, at the moment, income is calculated before housing cost, which means that in London fuel poverty numbers are possibly underestimated. Similarly, there are implications for equalising measured income as doing so would mean fewer pensioners would be defined as fuel poor and there would be a lot more working-age families with children.

It was suggested in discussion that not just housing but expenses such as child care should be taken into account. The Review will look in some details at how much money people have left after to pay for everything else once they've paid for fuel: an after fuel costs measure of fuel poverty.

The current definition is very responsive to fuel prices and doesn't necessarily reflect that what is being done to tackle the problem. For example between 1996 and 2004 the problem fell by 80%, but many people would agree that there was still a structural problem. Conversely, the problem has quadrupled since 2004 under the current definition. There have been incremental improvements in energy efficiency although not enough to offset the core problem. Energy prices make the problem more acute but the current definition gives energy prices a lot of weight.

The evidence suggests over 75s and under 5 year olds are most likely to suffer ill health through living in a cold home irrespective of whether they or their families are defined as fuel poor. Some, therefore, suggest that the strategy should be designed to look for people affected regardless of income.

Once the Review has decided on the range of ways to measure the problem, they will focus on the impacts of different policies.

There is a workshop on Monday 18 July in London and a set of interim findings published in early to mid-October, with another launch event linked to this. This report will summarise the evidence received and reach a conclusion on how (if at all) fuel poverty is different from poverty in general as well the most serious impacts and the different approaches that can be taken to measuring the problem. Various indicators might be proposed whereby the problem can be measured in various ways. The final report will be published by the end of February and will lay out policy recommendations. However, this will not dictate policy and spending to Government, but will make a clear recommendation on what they believe will be the right definition. This will be a definition that captures the essence of the problem and that allows the targeting of policy as well as allowing the Government to be held to account.

In discussion it was noted that debt aversion is one issue that makes the Green Deal, as the Government acknowledges, less likely to help those at risk of fuel poverty, particularly the elderly, due to the reluctance to take on loans. The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) has, therefore, both a carbon objective and an affordable warm objective to address fuel poverty.

It was also mentioned that in rural areas people off the gas network have had to deal with a 70% rise in oil prices in the last heating period and this has a big bearing on whether they are fuel poor or not. In some areas there is a large number of properties that are both off the gas network and of pre-1919 construction with a large elderly population. It was noted that the elderly often have trouble perceiving the temperature and don't know how cold they are or they might find it cold when we wouldn't.

Concluding, OM thanked GBH for attending.

Action: GBH said he will be happy to feedback to the CAN Executive on the forthcoming workshop. RL to liaise with GBH on this.

RL/GBH

9. Abigail Burridge, LG Group

9.1 The LG Group submitted a response to the Hills Review Call for Evidence.

Their approach was that councils don't necessarily stick to the 10% definition and that different councils have different ways of addressing fuel poverty. Some focus on SAP, for example, and others link to the health agenda.

9.2 The LG Group also fed into the Parliamentary Renewable and Sustainable Energy Group enquiry on Equity in Climate Change Policy (chaired by Alan Simpson) which was very closely related to fuel poverty. This review also looked at various definitions of fuel poverty and good practice.

9.3 They are particularly concerned about statements DECC have made about making it easier for energy companies to find vulnerable people. The LG Group have asked why they don't just make it easier for agencies that already work with vulnerable people to have access to the resources.

GBH said he would feed this back to the Hills Review.

KA said that councils have been saying for the last 15 years that the best way to tackle fuel poverty would be to give the council and their partners such as health authorities the money and they would be able to find the vulnerable households and individuals very easily.

9.4 The LG Group is currently being restructured and Sandie Dunne is now the combined Head of Programmes for both Environment & Housing and Health & Wellbeing. They are working on

raising the issue of fuel poverty through the integration of the public health agenda into councils, and having Sandie as head of programmes for both should facilitate that.

KA noted that often health and wellbeing representatives were only concerned with the three issues of teenage pregnancy, smoking and obesity. KA added that fuel poverty often doesn't fit into their priorities because it takes a toll on health over a period of decades and they measure things in periods of five-year Government terms. The amount of reporting required to receive funding was also very restrictive. JKM said that a recent review by Christine Liddell had shown that there was no solid evidence that intervention was having an effect on mortality but there was evidence people felt much better. This might not be shown in the statistics but was very important nonetheless.

- 9.5 The Energy Bill won't now receive royal assent before the summer recess due to lack of time. DECC hope this won't damage the timetable as they hope to get the Bill through when Parliament come back in September.
- 9.6 The LG Group Conference will be themed around the Energy Bill and the Green Deal on 29 November and is free to members.
- 9.7 Under the Energy Bill there will be a new statutory requirement on local authorities to issue penalties to private landlords who rent out F or G-rated properties by around 2016. There will be a burden assessment and councils will be given funding for this.
- 9.8 Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) information will also be made available to councils on a database, which will also help with this. EPCs will also be toughened up with stricter standards.
- 9.9 Under the Freedoms Bill, local authority powers to enter properties will be reduced so it is unlikely that councils will receive any additional powers to gain access to properties. Hopefully there will be still be powers to enter F or G rated-properties as they are a category 1 hazard. The LG Group have been pushing for greater power for councils due to the risk of retaliatory evictions etc.
- 9.10 The Home Energy Conservation Act is not to be repeal as the Government would like to keep it as a statutory instrument to get councils to engage in the Green Deal. The LG Group will be lobbying for LAs to be funded for this. The LG Group would rather have powers and incentives to make working on the green deal attractive for councils, rather than make them do it if it doesn't make sense for them. DECC say they want Councils to come forward with advice and say how they think HECA should fit in with the Green Deal. They will then put together guidance based on this, so there is a lot of opportunity for councils to shape this.
- 9.11 The LG Group's memorandum of understanding is about how the LG Group can work better with DECC. The first part is about making better policies to help councils take action on climate change e.g. making it easy for councils to get involved in the Green Deal. The second part is about sharing information e.g. by how much councils are signing up to reduce their emissions. The proposal around this second part was perhaps a new Nottingham Declaration. The current Declaration is over 10 years old and councils don't actually have to demonstrate they are carrying out the actions they have signed up to. The LG Group proposal is to give the Declaration more teeth to use it as a way to demonstrate that we are taking action on climate change. The consultation on this will hopefully go out at around the end of July. This will feed into a meeting in October of the current Nottingham Declaration partnership which consists of EST, Carbon Trust, Nottingham City Council, Climate UK, the Environment Agency and the LG Group. AB is also suggesting other representatives such as CAN to be present. This will then decide a way forward with DECC and DCLG.
- 9.12 The Department of Communities and Local Government is planning a new workstream on climate change and councils coming out of the local carbon budgets and local carbon frameworks, this will involve HECA and the LG Group will be working with DCLG and DECC on this. It remains to be seen how much of HECA will be based on primary and secondary legislation and how much will be just guidance.
- 9.13 The LG Group are still negotiating access to the Energy Company Obligation by councils. Many of the energy suppliers are very keen to work with councils on this although there is concern that smaller councils should not be left out.
- 9.14 Government are looking to social housing providers to pledge a proportion of their stock to the Green Deal in part to demonstrate demand. At the same time they might be restricting access for social housing providers to the Affordable Warmth aspect of ECO, which is very worrying. DECC are suggesting that social housing can't have Affordable Warmth funding because they have already had Decent Homes funding and they want it to go to the private rented sector.

9.15 AB will be meeting with the Office of Fair Trading to discuss oil prices and people off the gas grid.
OM thanked AB for attending.

10.1 Date of next meeting

10.1 The next executive meeting will be held on 20 October 2011 at London Borough of Camden Town Hall. The next meetings will be on 12 January 2012, 12 April 2012 (AGM and Executive) and 12 July 2012.