

CAN Executive Meeting Minutes

10 January 2013 @ 10:30 am
London Borough of Camden Town Hall

Present:

Colin Anderson (Chair)	(CA)	CAN National Chair & Chair, South West CAN
Darsh Chauhan	(DC)	CAN National Secretariat & Vice Chair, East Midlands CAN
David Colbourne	(DCo)	Chair, North West CAN
Tina Cowley	(TC)	E.ON
Cliff Darby	(CD)	Acting Vice Chair, South East CAN
Steve Ives	(SI)	DECC (Afternoon session only)
Rachel Jones	(RJ)	Chair, West Midlands CAN
John Kolm-Murray	(JKM)	Chair, London CAN
Rob Leeson	(RL)	CAN National Secretariat
Karen Lond	(KL)	Chair, East Midlands CAN
Paul Maplethorpe	(PM)	Chair, East Pennine CAN
Oliver Myers	(OM)	CAN Representative and Policy Advisor
Carol White	(CW)	Acting Chair, South East CAN

Apologies:

Dora Slater – DECC

Welcome and Introductions

CA welcomed the group and introductions were made.

SI and OM to join the meeting after lunch.

1. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

- 1.1 Item 3.1: RL asked if we have had feedback on the Consumer focus meeting from OM. RL to check. DCo also attended.
- 1.2 Item 5.12: SI will be asked about access to EPC data. There is also concern about the quality of the data where it has been purchased. University of Exeter has purchased data for one council in the South West and will inform other LAs on what the data tells us, if anything, that we didn't already know. CA offered to feed back about this. Many councils do not have a budget to buy the data and there is also a cost for putting it into a database. The data doesn't tell you the tenure; it will tell you whether it is rented but not whether it is social housing or private. It's the RD-SAP data that is most useful but that isn't all provided. There are also known inaccuracies due to the surveyors although it is generally a better standard of data than LAs are used to. You can buy an automatic update every year. They say they are charging for administration and storage not the data. If it hadn't been privatised from the outset, the data would have belonged to DECC.
- 1.3 Item 6.9: NEA Health and Wellbeing Board event is now on 28 February – details are on the NEA website.
- 1.4 Item 9.2: CA asked if anyone was involved in phase 2 of Green Deal Affordable Warmth Study. None of the group were involved. Under phase 1, they assessed whether measures for a number of private rented (both on and off-gas) properties in the South West would meet the "golden rule", however, not one of them did.

Action: RL to check if there was feedback from OM on Consumer Focus meeting and recirculate if necessary

2. Sponsor's update

- 2.1 TC is the new Senior Relationship Manager for E.ON working specifically on the Affordable Warmth aspect of ECO, although TC will also be working on some other ECO relationships that fall outside of Affordable Warmth.
- 2.2 TC has emailed the group asking for feedback on what sort of information they would like E.ON to provide on ECO.
- 2.3 E.ON have a nationwide team who are able to help with ECO – contact details are on the back of the CAN magazine.
- 2.4 It was asked whether E.ON is likely to become a Green Deal provider. There has been no firm decision made on this. It is unlikely that they will at this stage, however, that might change in the longer term. E.ON are the only supplier to have achieved all of their CERT and CESP obligations, so they have a bit of a head-start on ECO over others who are still finishing off CERT and CESP.

3. Secretariat Update

- 3.1 There is currently £27,000 in the savings account.
- 3.2 The annual accounts are with the auditors.
- 3.3 It was also approved that we should write off some old bad debts for past delegate fees where it was felt the money could not be recovered.
- 3.4 There was a three-month period between sponsorship contracts, but the finances are healthy.
- 3.5 A National CAN response to the Hills Fuel Poverty consultation response was submitted.
- 3.6 The latest edition of the magazine was published in November.
- 3.7 There have been regular progress meetings between the CAN Secretariat and E.ON.
- 3.8 The date for the Chairs Away Day has been set for 22 February. It will be held at the National Council for Voluntary Organisations close to Kings Cross. Peter Chisnall will be facilitating the event and he has sent a proposed agenda.
- 3.9 The annual report will be available for approval at the AGM in April, for publication in a future edition of the CAN magazine. As with last year, reports from all of the CAN regions will also be included in the magazine.
- 3.10 The Brighton Conference will be held on 28 January 2013. So far there are around 70 delegates registered, so hopefully we will reach the target of 80, by the time of the event. Most of the exhibition spaces have also been sold.
- 3.11 RL read the draft programme to the group. There is still one speaker slot being held open for suggestions.
- 3.12 Collective Energy Switching was suggested, perhaps I-Choose, or Bill Wilkinson from the Energy Audit Company on the UNO database.
- 3.13 JKM mentioned that he asked Steve Fields from the National Commissioning Board if he was interested in speaking, although he was unavailable. He will be invited to the next event, once the date has been set.
- 3.14 We are looking to hold the next conference in Wales. It had been planned to hold this in the last week of March, although this might need to be put back because of Easter and availability of venues. This should not affect the rest of the year's conference schedule, however. RL has been in touch with Steve Martin, Chair of CAN Cymru Housing,
- 3.15 The Conference after that will be held in the North East, probably Newcastle, around the end of June.
- 3.16 The final conference of 2013 is likely to be held at the Ricoh Arena in Coventry. It is planned that this event will also include an evening gala dinner, hosting the CAN awards ceremony.
- 3.17 A CAN members' survey will be conducted this year. We will have an intern working at the Leicester Energy Agency for eight weeks from May, who will be able to help with this. It will, therefore, be useful if we can start thinking about the topics and questions we would like to ask prior to the next meeting.
- 3.18 CA's last date of service with Plymouth Council is 21 January. Which is why he will have to step down as CAN National Chair.
- 3.19 We have a choice, under the constitution, whether to call an EGM to elect a new Chair or for the Vice Chair to take over the Chair's role until the AGM. As the AGM is in April, CA suggested that the PM should take over until then. PM accepted.

- 3.20 PM is happy to chair the Brighton Conference, with travel and accommodation expenses to be paid by National CAN. CA was asked if he would also like to speak at the conference on an independent basis. RL and CA will liaise over this.

4. Representation and Meetings

- 4.1 A letter has been drafted which will be sent from CAN asking for Warm Front data to be published, as it has been in previous years, or an explanation given as to why Carillion have stopped providing the data. It is particularly important that we do not have an incomplete data set at the time when HECA reports are due. A letter has been drafted and this will be circulated to the Executive for comment before sending to Pam Wynn.
- 4.2 There is no follow up on the CAN web forum thread regarding CERT funding withdrawal except that it will be mentioned to SI. The group felt that the transition had not been handled well and feedback to DECC warning of problems had been ignored.

Engaging with the public health agenda

- 4.3 Some of the group feel that we are not taking full advantage of the opportunities currently available to engage with the public health agenda. Health and Wellbeing strategies are being drafted, consulted upon and implemented and fuel poverty is unlikely to be a priority. There are a number of areas where we can work in what we do. E.g. Islington has 'long-term conditions', 'infant health' and 'mental health' as priorities and there are clear links to fuel poverty and housing quality in all three. Many public health departments are quite obsessed with lifestyle and behaviour and less interested in wider determinants. In unitary authorities, it should be more straightforward, however, there might be more problems in two-tier authorities. The Cold Weather Plan was also an interesting piece of work, although implementation, particularly the preventative side, might not have been very widespread. The Warm Homes Healthy People funding that came with it has been very useful. However it is very uncertain whether money will be available in future years, and we should call for this money to be available every winter.
- 4.4 They are evaluating and reviewing the Cold-Weather and Heatwave Plan this year. NICE is also producing guidance on excess winter deaths and illness prevention and will be consulting on the scope for this from 7 February for one month. The guidance itself will be published in January 2015. Islington recently put in a bid to their CCG to pay for some facilitative work – although it is unlikely they would pay for capital programmes but in terms of referral networks and entry level home visiting services, they may do. JKM will feedback on this when he hears more. JKM has applied to be a member of the Advisory Committee for the NICE Guidelines although he has yet to hear whether he has been accepted but we need to influence the direction of this. The new Public Health Framework has indicators on Fuel Poverty and Excess Winter Deaths and there will be other indicators which have an indirect link such as falls and air-quality.
- 4.5 We need to get the message out to the wider membership that they should be engaging with these opportunities.
- 4.6 JKM said that there is a definite role for CAN to play in influencing these areas and proposed that we have a standing item on the agenda for this.
- 4.7 Officers need to be better informed on CCG structure and priorities and how they function.
- 4.8 We need to take the initiative and provide information to members. Regional CAN events could invite speakers on the subject.
- 4.9 The Town and Country Planning Institute have published a document called Reuniting Health with Planning: Healthier Homes, Healthier Communities. However, it is questionable whether this is a planning issue. It looks like planning as seeking a place with these bodies to influence them and we need to do this too. It was felt that planners are often more interested in buildings that the people who live in them. The document includes a section with bullet points on "what planning officers can do". We could perhaps do the same for energy officers.
- 4.10 A lot of public health officials are obsessed with lifestyle at the moment and don't consider environmental factors to be important. The CIEH has been very quiet on these issues and they should have been the ones making this argument.
- 4.11 It is unlikely that we will be get representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Boards. Our voice is likely to be drowned out by social services who don't necessarily think our agenda is important.
- 4.12 There are ways we can influence, through people from the Department of Health and The Health Protection Agency.
- 4.13 Public Health England will come in from April and will have a lot of influence over what directors of public health do as there will be joint appointments between Public Health England and local

authorities. We need to build up a relationship with them quickly e.g. with Steve Fields from the Commissioning Board.

- 4.14 There could be an article on what we should be focussing on, in a future edition of the CAN magazine.
- 4.15 We need to be wary about talking just about energy as this may put some people off. We need to contextualise our work and talk about public health and wider determinants.
- 4.16 There is a lot we can do but the main problem is information.
- 4.17 JKM will be presenting at the London and South East NEA forum in February about the new structure and will forward his presentation to the rest of the Executive.
- 4.18 Steve Field could be invited to a future Executive Meeting.
- 4.19 Action: JKM to forward presentation

LGA Roundtable on Fuel Poverty

- 4.20 Hillary Tanner has asked CAN to provide representatives to attend the LGA Roundtable on Fuel Poverty on 14 February at the LGA offices, where they will be discussing fuel poverty from a local government perspective. JKM was already planning to attend. RJ and KL also volunteered to represent CAN. CAN will refund travel.

Other discussion

- 4.21 E.ON will be providing 100% funding for ECO Affordable Warmth measures. However, they won't be funding all measures and will focus mainly on boilers, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation and loft top ups, hard-to-treat cavities and draft proofing if combined with one of the other measures. Solid wall insulation will come under the other elements of ECO and won't necessarily be fully funded.

Actions:

RL to provide contact details for RJ and KL to Hilary Tanner for invitations to LGA Roundtable.

RL to circulate letter to on Warm Front data to the Executive for comments.

JKM to email his presentation to the London and SE NEA forum to the Executive when ready.

JKM & RL to invite Steve Field to next conference and a future Executive meeting.

5. Regional Updates

5.1 Name: Karen Lond

CAN Region: East Midlands

CAN Position: Chair

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

EM CAN held its AGM and HECA training day on 6 December in Nottingham; there were 41 attendees from around the region with representatives from all east midland counties. Presentations included Ben Smith – Snug Network on Green Deal and ECO, Steve Ives – DECC on the Revised HECA Guidance, Lisa Simms – EON on How ECO can help deliver HECA and Lance Saxby – EST on Home Analytics. This was followed by a round table discussion on HECA coordinated by Denise Marsdon – Flourish Partnership. Karen Lond was re-elected as Chair, Darsh Chauhan was re-elected as Vice Chair and Pippa Reeve has agreed to remain as Secretary until June 2013 (when her contract expires). Feedback from officers in attendance was very positive.

The next EM CAN meeting will be on 14 March at Ashfield District Council (free venue).

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

Next NEA Fuel Poverty Forum is on 13 February at Nottingham.

Details of any current projects:

Leicester City Council – working with the County Council on a WHHP project. Have submitted DECC fuel Poverty bid for £120K for a replacement boiler scheme.

Ashfield District Council – Have submitted a collective switching bid to DECC and are looking at setting up a GD advisory scheme.

Lincolnshire Councils - awarded £225K for WHHP project. Submitted DECC bids for all three areas.

Amber Valley – Derbyshire County Council has been awarded £130k from WHHP, mainly for ‘fluffy’ measures.

Notts/Derby LAEP – submitted bid to DECC for all three areas.

Derby City Council – awarded £160k WHHP funding. Submitted DECC bids for collective switching and fuel poverty to concentrate on solid wall insulation.

Rutland County Council – working with Change Agents again to continue WHHP-funded project. Also undertaking GD training and surveys and establishing emergency fuel fund. Submitted DECC collective switching bid and fuel poverty project to install OPV on ‘show homes’ and undertake a university study.

Northants Warm Homes – awarded £207k WHHP funding to establish energy advice service and also partnering on another county council WHHP project. Submitted DECC bids in all three areas.

5.2 PM for EP CAN

The next EP CAN meeting will be held on 11 January.

There will be presentations on the topics of Waste Water Heat Recovery Systems and Thermal Paint.

Name: Bryony Wilford

CAN Region: East Pennine

CAN Position: Representative

Details of any current projects:

Yorkshire Energy Partnership have won a number of funding bids to DECC:

- RHPP Community Fund for the area around Easingwold: off gas area, project based on the Lower Swale oil-buying syndicate
- Collective Switching funding to develop a local energy tariff to price-match the big six, with annual rebate, higher renewable content, commitment to invest in renewables locally, informing people of grants/schemes they’re eligible for and energy saving behaviour.
- Green Deal Pioneer Places – Yorkshire Dales, project to insulate hard-to-treat homes (lots of learning for homes across North Yorkshire even if not in project)
- Fuel Poverty fund – boiler replacements plus insulation, leads generated through N. Yorkshire’s Warm Homes Healthy People initiatives.
- CERT-funded insulation scheme still running. Hambleton DC was covering the £99 top-up or excess meterage fee but has now run out of its own CERT funds so anyone with > 6 cm insulation will again have to pay the top-up fee.
- Carillion ECO “Go Early” boiler replacement scheme – replacement of old or inefficient (C-rated or below) gas boilers with new A-rated ones for those on specific benefits (super-priority groups), repair if already efficient. Referral to Warm Front scheme for those not eligible / on other fuels.

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

HDC is reviewing its Sustainable Development / Climate Change services: no outcome / decision taken as yet, but may focus more on HECA obligations, saving the council money through energy efficiency and adaptation actions than other “NI 186-type” actions.

5.3 Name: John Kolm-Murray

CAN Region: London

CAN Position: Chair

(eg Chair / Vice Chair / Representative):

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

Winter Forum held on 11 December at Lambeth Town Hall. Presentations on collective switching and Green Deal.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

AGM to be held in May.

Details of any current projects:

Vice-Chair appeared before London Assembly Health & Environment Committee on 8 November to discuss regional Affordable Warmth Strategy and Green Deal issues.

First meeting of London Affordable Warmth & Health Forum on 13 November. Attended by over 40 officers from energy, environmental health and public health teams.

First draft of London Affordable Warmth & Health Action Plan produced and actions agreed with Greater London Authority and London Councils.

Greater London Authority running a number of workshops on barriers to energy efficiency improvements in London such as planning, parking and access, and access to benefit data.

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

5.4 Name: Carol White**CAN Region: SE CAN****CAN Position: Chair****(eg Chair / Vice Chair / Representative):****Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:**

Last meeting held on 5/9/12

Next meeting is on 15/1/13

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

Possible workshop in late Spring as we have received additional funding
From Snug Networks.

Details of any current projects:

Paul Juan Southampton City Council regulatory services manager corporate lead implement the GD; wishes to support the forum

Mark Fitzpatrick Windsor and Maidenhead – HECA, ECO, GD, promoting free insulation

Abby Hussain Wealden looking after GD, ECO, domestic energy assessments; fuel poverty; setting up RE projects

Hazel Hill Bracknell Forest Council promoting free insulation; involved SSE Ofgem project promoting low carbon and energy saving

Carol White Gosport – project with SGN on properties off gas SSE priority group; in middle of affordable warmth strategy, Hitting the cold spots DofH funding.

Cliff Darby Tandridge - working on mobile home improvements

Jo Brooks Arun (West Sussex rep) finished Warmer Homes project; getting well-being teams across WS to set up home energy visitor schemes; Arun & Chichester and one visitor; Horsham and Mid Sussex employed people to do it; writing article UK CAN; has CESP area looking at fuel switching in block of flats. Looking at ideas for code 5 council homes

James Robinson Surrey Heath – interested in requirements for HECA; project with mobile homes

Louise Lyons Hart DC – working with Rushmoor & Basingstoke on GD.

Amanda Martins Dover – fuel poverty; climate issues; looking at ECO with Kent and Medway GD partnership

Kirsty Pritchard Kent – GD partnership; drive forward GD in Kent talking to providers; identify pilot areas;

5.5 DCo for NW CAN

There was a joint meeting with NEA held on 31 October.

Oldham have started on collective energy switching.

There was a discussion of their response on the consultation on the definition of fuel poverty. The consensus was that the Hills proposal was great academically but not much use practically and the equalisation needs to be on the property size, not the household composition.

The meeting planned for January has been put back to February.

There is a Green Deal scheme in Manchester.

5.6 RJ for WM CAN

There was a meeting in Reditch in November, hosted by Tamlight, which gave them an opportunity to look at lighting technologies. The meeting focussed on the fuel poverty consultation and a DECC representative attended to discuss this. There were presentations from ScottishPower on Green Deal and ECO from their perspective and a council which is using heat from a crematorium to heat the local swimming pool.

There was a sub-regional meeting in Birmingham, looking at their district heating scheme. E.ON attended to discuss ECO and there were also discussions on HECA.

All the West Midlands LAs have put funding bids in to DECC.

JKM asked people's thoughts on the 19% cut on the Warm Homes Healthy People funding bids to make the money go further, which seemed a bit arbitrary. Most LAs would not have been able to find additional money and would have had to cut targets. It was appreciated that flexibility was allowed over where the cuts could be made. About a quarter of the 190 bids received last year were refused. There were not as many bids as last year, but presumably the full figures will be published as they were last year.

6. Discussions with guest Steve Ives of DECC

- 6.1 SI was welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.
- 6.2 The Green Deal (GD) launch date is still on course for 28 January. People are currently carrying out EPC assessments and trialling some occupancy assessments as part of the core-cities work. There have been issues with lodging occupancy assessment on the Landmark website, however, these are being resolved. The BRE tool is now live and it is hoped that a few more commissioned tools will be going live soon.
- 6.3 The occupancy assessments can be registered to create GD Plan Numbers from 21 January. The GD finance is also on course to be in place by the launch date. Launch arrangements are being planned and DECC are working with an agency to advertise it.
- 6.4 There was a fantastic response to all three strands of the Pioneer Places Competition, which were oversubscribed by approximately twice the amount of funding available. The two main criteria used for judging bids were what they would mean for the GD in the immediate phase and on a long-term basis. They decided the cap the maximum award to £600,000 in order to support as many bids as possible. An announcement will be next week on the successful bids. DECC have tried to give feedback to unsuccessful bidders where it has been asked for.
- 6.5 DECC are aware that a number of Energy Companies and LAs have already struck deals on ECO work.
- 6.6 SI has followed the thread on the CAN web forum which raised issues over the way CERT had ended and has forwarded these comments on to the ECO team. He has also spoken to some people who phoned in and was a bit surprised that many people didn't seem to be clear on who the contractual arrangement was with when the offer was pulled.

- 6.7 DCLG have now published revised guidance clarifying that solid wall insulation constitutes an “improvement” to a house rather than an enlargement or an extension. Therefore, outside of conservation areas, listed buildings, etc, it shouldn’t be necessary to get planning permission to install SWI, which should remove a potential for delays on this issue. The guidance can be found under the DCLG Planning Portal. SI to forward link to RL.
- 6.8 CA asked if SI knew anything about why Warm Front data had not been released this year. This data is of great importance to many of CAN’s members. SI said that he had an outstanding query on that with DECC’s Warm Front Team, so he would chase this up.
- 6.9 CA also asked about access to EPC data. It is CAN’s belief that LAs should have free access to EPC data as a matter of principle and is causing a lot of problems for LAs, particularly with regard to producing HECA reports. SI said that DECC has raised the issues with Landmark about this but the difficulty is that the data is covered by a commercial contract and DECC don’t have powers to force them to provide the data for free.
- 6.10 The following questions were then asked of SI by the rest of the group:
- 6.11 Q: There is concern that at least half of the companies have closed their books, in the middle of winter, to new broader-group applicants for the Warm Home Discount.
- 6.12 A: SI was unable to respond on this as it is out of his remit but he will feed the comments back to the Warm Front Team.
- 6.13 Q: SI was asked if he could provide an update to the timetable to the eligibility criteria on measures.
- 6.14 A: SI said that Ofgem guidance is currently out for consultation, and until we have the final guidance there is no certainty on this, although the consultation is due to close relatively soon.
- 6.15 Q: Is there was any more information about the ECO brokerage trials?
- 6.16 A: SI said that the best person to ask on this would be Siobhan Stanger who leads on brokerage.
- 6.17 Q: how many Green Deal Providers have been accredited to date?
- 6.18 A: The numbers change daily but there were currently well over 20.
- 6.19 Q: How difficult has it been vetting them for financial security and the likelihood of them being able to continue in the market?
- 6.20 A: Genserve deals with this and it is a lengthy, comprehensive process with quite a lot of paperwork involved and they make pretty robust assessments.
- 6.21 Q: What happens if a Green Deal Provider goes bust?
- 6.22 A: They have to have arrangements in place whereby the Green Deal commitments are honoured and passed on to another organisation.
- If a Provider goes bust the creditor’s collection of the loans cannot be any quicker than allowed for in the Energy Act. There also has to be arrangements in place to address maintenance issues.
- 6.23 When will ECO providers have clarity on what sort of work will be allowed? Some ECO providers seem very hesitant. Even when they have found customers there still seems to be something they are nervous about. In some areas it is felt that it is difficult to get ECO off the ground at the moment because of this and that nothing is likely to happen in January.
- 6.24 SI said this wasn’t his experience of the situation.
- 6.25 TC said there wasn’t an issue with nervousness as far as E.ON are concerned, it’s just that they have come from a standing start and it’s a question of getting everything set up. Up to a point, E.ON are doing ECO work under an element of risk as they have had to take their interpretation of the measures etc. E.ON have started on ECO work and it will ramp up very quickly.
- 6.26 Some of the group felt that CSCO seems to be taking off but the Affordable Warmth aspect might be lagging. 19 January is a critical date as Warm Front will stop at this point and we need to be able to offer people something in its place.
- 6.27 E.ON already has it’s affordable warmth call centre in place and TC offered to circulate the number so they can deal with individual customers. The process is perhaps a bit slower when dealing with big numbers.
- 6.28 One of the barriers can be the Ofgem data requirements particularly with customers suffering from dementia. They are required to come up with the evidence, which is also complicated by the welfare reforms. In one area they have an agreement with the Department of Work and Pensions where they can let them know what benefits customers are on if they don’t know themselves.

- 6.29 Q: The eligibility criteria for ECO Affordable Warmth has changed recently. Once we know more about demand, etc, is this likely to change again, since more people should be included?
- 6.30 A: This is not likely to happen in the near future because it would involve a new consultation and changes to the legislation.
- 6.31 Q: Universal credit is coming in October, will this cause any problems?
- 6.32 A: DECC's Affordable Warmth Team are aware of this and in touch with the Department of Work and Pensions on this and there shouldn't be any problems but SI is happy to ask them for more information.
- 6.33 Q: Hopefully ECO won't end up like Warm Front with a lead time of up to six months. Are benefit changes and SAP ratings assessments likely to cause problems?
- 6.34 A: TC said that E.ON will take photographic evidence of benefits letters when they do the RD-SAP assessment. The intention is to get the installation done within 28 days of the assessment for both insulation and heating. Where the customer has no heating they will try to get them done quicker.
- 6.35 SI offered to provide a representative from the Affordable Warmth Team to attend the next Executive Meeting. The group agreed that this would be very helpful.
- 6.36 Q: Is there a date set yet for the new fuel poverty strategy?
- 6.37 A: There isn't a date set for that yet.
- 6.38 Q: What sort of campaigns are DECC planning to do with the £2.9 million GD marketing budget?
- 6.39 A: There probably won't be a television campaign but there will be advertisements in both national and regional press. There might also be promotion through show homes. They are currently working through options. It is also probable that GD providers will be running their own promotions.
- 6.40 Q: There seems to a separation between the promotion of the Pioneers Places and the Green Deal launch?
- 6.41 A: SI sees these are part-and-parcel of the same thing in that a lot of the projects funded by Pioneers Places are for Green Deal work.
- 6.42 Q: Would SI be happy to look at some draft HECA reports and provide quick feedback?
- 6.43 A: SI said he would be happy to do so.
- 6.44 Q: We don't know when the fuel poverty indicator is going to be revised, the consultation for renewable heating hasn't been published yet. The practicalities are that the HECA report will need to be completed by many authorities in early February with one week's experience of the Green Deal in order for it to be approved by the March deadline. Is there, therefore some flexibility with the HECA March deadline?
- 6.45 A: DECC appreciates that all LAs will be at different stages of development and the 31 March deadline has been set to provide every LA with an early opportunity to flag up that they have done some thinking about what sort of work they want to undertake and who they want to work with, although they may not be able to go into detail in certain areas. It's about using the HECA report as a calling-card to attract investment. The 31 March date will remain as the deadline but DECC are not expecting a "work of art" from every LA by then and just an outline to show their thinking might be appropriate.
- 6.46 Q: There are parts of the pro-forma, such as smart metering, where many LAs won't be able to say much at this stage. However, for a future report there will be more to say.
- 6.47 A: It is about getting people thinking about these issues at an early stage and it should be used as an opportunity for you to attract funding.
- 6.48 Q: With Scotland and Wales retaining tax-payer-funded schemes will you be monitoring their success against the English system?
- 6.49 A: Scotland and Wales will both be running Green Deal. What they choose to run alongside that is up to them. England has also done things that Wales and Scotland haven't. We have to learn from the experiences of the whole of the UK. There is a question over whether the use of public money can continue in the devolved regions.
- 6.50 Q: What numbers of people have applied?
- 6.51 A: It is too soon to have figures available. There are some very good offers out at the moment. The fact that there were over 200 LAs bidding for funding for Green Deal related work under Pioneer Projects, suggests that there is an appetite for the scheme.

- 6.52 Q: Many LAs have been hoping that the days of “low hanging fruit” were behind us. However, many have become demoralised as we still seem to be no nearer the whole-house approach that we have been asking for for 15 years. CESP was intended to be for at least three measures but, by the end, Energy Companies were so desperate they were doing just one measure. There seems to be very little progress on including renewables and SWI, for example. GD offers the opportunity for a whole-house approach, but customers can pick and choose. For instance, in cities there are thousands of solid wall properties which desperately need work and still won’t get it under ECO.
- 6.53 A: The Green Deal has opened a whole new funding mechanism, with ECO working alongside it. Householders will get an incentive for the first year, there is a potential that they will receive further funding if it falls short and energy bills are only going to go one way, so it is a very attractive offer. It’s not all about energy efficiency, either, it’s also a home-improvement programme. There is huge potential for a lot of work to be carried out and to bring a lot of money into the market.
- 6.54 Q: Under Health and Wellbeing the decision whether certain measures could be undertaken were based on payback, however, this does not include the savings to the health sector. Having an argument for improving houses solely on the basis of the economics of the improvement, rather than the savings to health and social care, means we are only focussing on one area.
- 6.55 A: SI agreed. From some of the bids he has seen for Pioneer Places, LAs have been making that link and also with jobs. So they are starting to take those benefits into account.
- 6.56 Q: Will GD marketing be mainly aimed at fairly well-off, middle-class home owners?
- 6.57 A: DECC’s marketing is mainly aimed at explaining GD, promoting the GD kite-mark and the assurances that it gives. GD providers carry out marketing on a daily basis and are in a better attract customers than DECC.
- 6.58 Q: People on low-incomes are unlikely to respond to GD, yet they are the most in need of what GD has to offer.
- 6.59 A: In terms of rolling out GD alongside ECO, people will come up with a Carbon-Saving-Communities way to attract ECO funding and then roll out from there. The idea is to have a flexible offer that you can take out to every household in an area. It’s the successes of the CESP approach that DECC want to see rolled out with GD and ECO; that’s the way to deliver this.
- 6.60 Q: what information will the advice line be giving to people who use it? How do they make sure they can link into the local offer?
- 6.61 A: SI was not sure and he will look in to that himself.
- 6.62 Q: The old EST advice line didn’t often tell people about local offers, so how is one advice line coving the entire country going to manage.
- 6.63 A: It’s not there to put barriers in the way. There should be ways to get around the problems.
- 6.64 It was noted by the group that there is a lot of misunderstanding, even amongst contractors, that rural CSCO only applies to areas that border CSCO areas. Whereas this is not the case.
- 6.65 Q: Has DECC approached the Council of Mortgage Lenders to get their views of what will happen when a property with a GD loan attached is sold or remortgaged?
- 6.66 A: Yes, and discussions will continue. There are regulations being made In terms of disclosure, etc.
- 6.67 Q: Can you clarify the situation with regard to park home and GD and ECO?
- 6.68 A: Park Homes aren’t eligible for GD because you can’t model the savings in order to apply the Golden Rule, and in a lot of cases they do not have individual meters. Park Homes should be able to attract ECO Affordable Warmth, though.
- 6.69 Q: Isn’t the SAP problem still an issue? They want information on notional saving for ECO Affordable Warmth.
- 6.70 A: It’s something DECC is aware of and they’d like to try to resolve the problems.

Actions

SI to forward link to revised DCLG planning guidance to RL.

RL to contact SI with regard to sourcing a DECC representative on Affordable Warmth team for the next meeting.

7. AOB

- 7.1 There is a consultation on Energy Crisis, Profits and Poverty by the Energy and Climate Change Committee. The deadline is 14 February. CAN could potentially respond.
- 7.2 The Group thanked CA for his excellent work as CAN Chair.

8. Date of next meeting

- 8.1 The next meeting will be held on 11 April 2013, at Camden Town Hall, London.