

ALEO Executive Meeting Minutes

13 October 2016 @ 10:30 am
London Borough of Camden Town Hall

Present:

David Colbourne (DCo) - ALEO National Vice Chair and Chair, North West CAN
Cliff Duff - Chair, ALEO North East
Hazel Hill (HH) - Acting Chair, ALEO South East
Paul Hinsley (PH) - Chair, ALEO East
Rachel Jones (RJ) - Chair, West Midlands ALEO
John Kolm-Murray (JKM) - ALEO National Chair and Vice Chair, ALEO London
Rob Leeson (RL) - ALEO National Secretariat
Karen Lond (KL) - Chair, ALEO East Midlands
Martin O'Brien (MO) - Chair, ALEO London
David Young - ALEO National Secretariat Finance Officer

Guest, arriving at lunch:

Jerome Baddley, Head of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit

Apologies:

Steve Barnard (SB) - National Business Development Manager, Park Home Insulations
Richard Cassells – Director, Park Home Insulations
Darsh Chauhan - ALEO National Secretariat Manager & Vice Chair, ALEO East Midlands
Robert Clements – Representative, Northern Ireland Housing Executive
Leanna Jones - Vice Chair, CAN Cymru Wales
Jane Mears - Vice Chair, East Pennine CAN
David Shiner - Vice Chair, West Midlands ALEO
Neil Short - Chair, ALEO South West

1. Minutes from previous meeting and matters arising

- 1.1 JKM welcomed the group and introductions were made.
- 1.2 CD gave an update on North East ALEO, which will be holding a forum meeting on 2 December in Durham to relaunch the regional network under the new ALEO identity. DC will be attending, as well as a speaker from BEIS and a speaker on smart metering. This will be the first meeting in the region since Andy Stephenson stood down as North East CAN Chair in 2014. CD and Susan Car, both of Durham Council, are the new Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.
- 1.3 The minutes of the last meeting were approved as a true record.

Matters arising from previous minutes (14 April 2016):

- 1.4 Action point 1.9: the minutes of the last two Executive meetings will be published on the ALEO website without the minutes of the meetings with DECC/BEIS.
- 1.5 Action point 1.11: See Secretariat update, item 3.1, below.
- 1.6 Action point 5.2: We now have a list of generic press email address, taken from websites. We will send future press releases to these contacts. Consider using ALEO if you would like to publicise something nationally.
- 1.7 Action point 5.9: RL will send round a list of dates for the Executive to contribute to.
- 1.8 NEA Warm Homes Campaign starts at the end of November and runs until Fuel Poverty Awareness Day in February. NEA has funding available for activities, with MP involvement, during this period.
- 1.9 Item 5.10: When Trading Standards are given a list of properties without EPCs, they will investigate and warn the estate agents. They will then go back in 6 months and check a random sample and issue warnings, if necessary, but they will not issue a penalty charge

without giving two warnings first. As LA resources are reduced this will fall even further down their priority list. If they can't generate income or it won't be cost neutral they won't take action. It will only go to court if the penalty charge of £1,000 isn't paid or it's contested. This is relevant to upper tier council's only. In unitary authorities it is normally dealt with by trading standards but they can delegate to environmental health. Some 2nd tier LAs are looking to take this over in their areas, as some districts don't want to act on this.

1.10 We could ask members if there are any LAs that are running this at no cost in our next members survey.

It would be useful to send a Freedom of Information request (FOI) on this to all top-tier authorities. There might be a website to help with sending to every top tier. Wording is crucial. The release of free EPC data gives us a window to address this.

1.11 There might be an admin charge, around 4p per dataset. LAs will need to sign documents saying what they are doing with the data. Terms are much tighter than when it was charged for. The terms are fine for generic research but not for targeting F and G landlords.

1.12 The challenge is how to realign EPC data with HHSRS. F and G doesn't always match up with excess cold. It is often low-quality data.

1.13 The Housing Act gets over the proposed cap on maximum up-front cost to landlords of £2,500 to £5,000, as it says that properties need to be brought up to standard.

1.14 There is a Cabinet Office consultation with a section about sharing data for the purposes of fuel poverty, which might help.

1.15 There is currently a bill in parliament on energy company data sharing. It is very vague and talks about energy companies sharing data with public authorities. There are opportunities for us to influence this. We need a precise shopping list of what we want. This should be put on the ALEO work plan for the new year.

1.16 Collecting info on the good work that LAs are doing is important.

1.17 EPC data becomes free from the autumn. It was asked if it would be worth getting a request in early? Landmark has said 'no', as you will be charged.

The data will be free to access but you will have to register.

What epc data is it? We need to know tenure. You have to reverse engineer to interpret things like 'Windows good' for example.

10p per dataset will drop to 4p per dataset as an 'admin charge'

If you have an EPC number or the postcode you can look it up for free at the moment, so what difference does it make?

BRE said to hang on for free data, although this probably won't be at the level needed.

1.18 Action point 5.14: RL has submitted JKM's letter to political party leaders, which is available on the press releases section of the ALEO website. So far, RL has received receipts from Number 10 and the Green Party.

1.19 Action 5.18: RL will be exhibiting at the NIA Conference. There have been no volunteers for NIA's request for an LA panel speaker for their conference.

1.20 Action point 6.3: KL to chase Derbyshire and Notts statistics.

1.21 Action point 6.54: ALEO submitted a national response to both the ECO Help to Heat and the Ofgem Redress consultations on the allocation of voluntary redress payments in the context of enforcement cases, but not the heat networks capital funding consultation.

Action point 7.1: By the time of the meeting, RL had received only two regional updates. It is up to the regional chair how to do this. Some regions ask their LAs for updates and feed them through, while others write them themselves.

1.22 Item 6.40: BEIS ECO consultation, customer contribution. There is a standard fee from suppliers of £250 to HHCRO customers. BEIS was asking for data on this in a previous consultation. We could make an official point to BEIS on this. There are many clients who can afford this, and the £250 should be offset by the savings, but the truly fuel poor can't afford it. The utilities are quite good at lobbying government and BEIS might be under the impression that the fuel poor are receiving free measures when they are not, in reality. Under Warm Front they used to pay a lot more but LAs were able to pay for them. KL will draft something on this to send to BEIS.

1.23 Item 6.42: Energy companies are not replacing old Warm Front boilers under ECO and are still installing cheap boilers. This is short-termism. Condensing boilers are not 12 years old so they don't fit the criteria. They used to do a flush not a power flush when boilers were installed, which has led to problems.

ACTIONS:

- 1.24 RL to send round list of event dates for suggestions by ALL.
- 1.25 ALL to follow up on their ideas for press releases, with RL, JKM and others as appropriate.
- 1.26 KL to return Cash Flow Manager to RL.
- 1.27 RL and JKM to liaise with NEA on Warm Homes Campaign activities.
- 1.28 KL to chase Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire statistics.
- 1.29 RL and JKM to include question on EPC penalties in next ALEO members survey.
- 1.30 JKM to consider FOI request on EPC data and liaise with RL
- 1.31 RL to add 'influencing data sharing regulations' to the next Executive meeting agenda.
- 1.32 RL to resend NIA request for LA conference panel speaker to the Executive.
- 1.33 KL to draft letter to BEIS re client contributions.

2. Chair's Update

- 2.1 JKM thanked the group for their input into ALEO's ECO Help to Heat consultation response. There was general agreement on most issues, but on points where members didn't agree, JKM looked for a compromise or ignored if necessary. On social housing, some were against funding and some were in favour. As ALEO has to represent LAs who retain their own stock, ALEO should therefore support funding. Half of social housing is still LA managed.
- 2.2 There is concern about limiting funding to just to F and G properties as this could be problematic. There is research to show that people living in social housing are more likely to be fuel poor than people living in private sector properties with a similar EPC rating.
- 2.3 On the Ofgem Redress consultation, ALEO's response said that LAs should have access to funding and a new third party should be set up to administer this, or Ofgem should administer it directly. Energy suppliers shouldn't get publicity from punishment.
- 2.4 LAs should get funding for capital work schemes.
- 2.5 NEA have released a report titled Get Warm Soon, launched at their conference including a survey on Health and Wellbeing Boards' work on excess winter deaths. We are no further on in 2016 than we were in 2013.
- 2.6 League tables can be counterproductive, particularly if they are inaccurate. Chief executives of those LAs that get good marks might think they don't need to do more, and it offends those on the bottom of list, particularly where they are actually very active. Some LAs received high ratings because they had 'planned' to do something, but others that are very active received poor ratings, because of profiling methods.
- 2.7 It was suggested that Health and Wellbeing Boards are not actually that important to fuel poverty and we are giving them too much attention.
- 2.8 BEIS are apparently disappointed that there was an underspend on the Green Deal Communities fund and that they have had to extend the deadline for the Central Heating Fund. Part of the problem was that timeframes were far too tight. Being linked to the Green Deal was also a problem. Some LAs were told to give the money back just when they were about to start work. What the government achieved with the Green Deal for £200 million was less than what they expected of LAs for £9 million. LAs put a lot of money in and payment took a long time. DECC said payment would be within four weeks but it took months and they changed the criteria so many times that the delivered schemes were very different to the bids. One scheme had four different DECC budget holders, so the LA had to go through everything with them four times. Energy suppliers have said that they learnt a lot on customer engagement from LAs.
- 2.9 We need to collect data from LAs that took part in the GD Communities and Central Heating Schemes and ask them to be candid about where they made mistakes, and where the structure of the schemes made it difficult to deliver. For example, the timescale for gas connections was only nine months. However, it takes at least three months for a gas connection, so you have to recruit everyone and set everything up within the first three months, get the gas connections in the 2nd three months and roll out the central heating installation in the last three months. There was no way to deliver the quantities involved.
- 2.10 We need to collect the information and then meet with BEIS.
- 2.11 BEIS have already asked for feedback, but we need to do things our own way with a template for LAs to respond.
- 2.12 The Warm Home Discount Industry Initiatives (WHD II) there is more of a movement now to recruit new organisations to bid for funding to do fuel poverty works. There were events in Birmingham and Glasgow, which JKM attended. With the cap on boiler installations under ECO, BEIS are considering using WHD II to fill the gap. If this happens, other actors

will get involved. £30 million isn't going to go very far if it's spent as capital funding rather than debt relief, advice etc.

2.13 Many LA energy officers are being made redundant, and once their expertise goes it is very hard to get back and there is no continuity.

2.14 The LA flexible criteria proposal (actually local agency), could be a threat to LAs as there is money to be made. Bad schemes run by non-LA organisations are never properly evaluated. LAs often have to pick up the pieces from scheme that have been mismanaged by other organisations.

2.15 Outsourcing doesn't work well and many LAs are now bringing services back in house.

2.16 We need to have a dedicated discussion on ALEO's strategy supporting the position of LAs.

2.17 BEIS are likely to use ECO Flexible Eligibility as a test of LAs

2.18 No LAs were awarded Smart Energy GB's Small Grant, although around 10 were submitted. For other organisations only 2 in 3 bids were rejected.

2.19 A members survey would be good for highlighting that active LA energy officers are the glue that make schemes work, and leads to more ECO work and a greater return. Demonstrating this is hard. There are data sets but excess winter deaths statistics are too volatile.

2.20 When BEIS praise a particular council, they aren't seeing it as representative of LAs. There are places where there's nothing going on but where things have gone well it's because LAs have been involved. We need to prove this.

2.21 HECA reports are a way of making sure LAs engage on some level, although it's not perfect. Reports should be signed off by someone with expertise. Will Field is now the BEIS lead on HECA. BEIS will not be changing the guidance much for the next reporting round, but for future reporting it might change significantly. It's possible they will revert to annual reports. Will Field suggested combining HECA with carbon reporting at the ALEO East Midlands meeting but it was pointed out that they are very different and it wouldn't be appropriate to merge them. BEIS have said they will give feedback on reports in future.

2.22 Committee on Fuel Poverty (CFP) data from BEIS on cost effectiveness of energy companies is not accurate, as it doesn't include contributions from LAs.

ACTIONS:

2.23 JKM and RL to liaise with Executive on ALEO response to NEA Get Warm Soon report before Warm Homes events in November.

2.24 JKM and RL to liaise on gathering LA feedback on Green Deal Communities and Central Heating funds.

3. Secretariat update

3.1 The ALEO Conference and Awards will take place on 14 October. Once this is out of the way the Secretariat will hopefully have more time to focus on the proposed action points discussed above.

3.2 The next edition of the ALEO magazine is due out soon.

3.3 A draft of the company Articles of Association has been produced based on the Executive's discussions. John Kolm-Murray has made some further comments, which RL will circulate to the Executive for any further feedback.

3.4 RL has not yet submitted the name change form because it turns out that the form can only be submitted within 15 days of a minuted resolution being passed at an official company meeting. RL was not aware of this previously and had been waiting until the invoices from the previous conference had been paid before submitting the change of name forms for companies house and the bank.

3.5 The group voted unanimously that they still wished to officially change the company name from The Home Energy Conservation Association to The Association of Local Energy Officers.

3.6 RL took the ALEO exhibition stand to the NEA Conference from 21 to 23 September in Manchester. This resulted in some useful new contacts and two exhibition stand bookings at the ALEO Bournemouth Conference.

3.7 Most of the invoices from the previous ALEO conference in Wigan have now been received.

3.8 There are around 65 delegates registered to attend the Bournemouth ALEO conference. It was suggested that we should consider future locations for conferences that are likely to attract more delegates. It was noted, however, that holding the ALEO conference in the South West was partly in order to engage with the region, so perhaps we should hold a conference in the North East or East Pennine in 2017 to help members there. Smaller conferences are usually cheaper as we generally pay per delegate, although it is important for sponsorship to have a good turnout. Timing probably affected

attendance at the Bournemouth conference because of the ALEO South Meeting the same week. There had been few other options available for the conference date, this time, however. There were around 120 delegates at the CAN conference in Brighton in January 2013, which was a record turnout for CAN one-day conferences, although CAN one-day conferences typically attracted around 80 delegates. The date coinciding with the launch of the Green Deal probably helped in Brighton, and there have been a lot of LA redundancies since then.

3.9 Bournemouth is the second of the two conferences that ALEO is contracted to hold during the period of Park Home Insulations' sponsorship, which runs until 31 May 2017. It is, therefore, likely that the next conference will be held in June 2017, subject to funding. We will probably hold the next conference in London, as turnout is likely to be higher there and then hold a further conference in the North East or East Pennines.

3.10 Reduced rates are available at the Islington Assembly Halls for Mondays to Wednesday.

ACTION:

3.11 RL to submit forms to change the company name.

3.12 RL will recirculate the company Articles of Association for any further comments.

4. Executive Away Day follow up

ALEO East Pennine, ALEO North East

4.1 As mentioned above, ALEO North East will be holding a forum meeting on 2 December in Durham, to relaunch the network there.

4.2 When Jane Mears sent her apologies for the meeting, she also mentioned that they are hoping to hold another ALEO East Pennine meeting combined with an NEA meeting in the new year.

Next Executive Away Day

We will look to hold the next Executive Away Day early next year.

ACTION:

4.3 RL to circulate potential dates for the next Executive Away Day.

5. Representation, consultations and policy

Public Health Agenda

5.1 NICE are developing guidance on indoor air quality. JKM is hoping to get involved with this in some way. This covers dampness and condensation. There is a danger that without ALEO involvement, health professionals will focus just on second-hand smoke. There is an event coming up on this. Insulation measures are often installed without consideration of ventilation. The negative health effects from reduced air quality due to installing insulation can be worse than the gain from increased thermal comfort, so ventilation is very important. A study in the North West has shown a health authority pay-back time of 18 months for ventilation.

Consultations

5.2 Islington is producing a response to Ofgem's CMA consultation, which could be rebadged as an ALEO response. This covers the regulations on prepay meters warrant charges. The consultation deadline is 9 November.

Meetings

5.3 RJ attended a meeting on ALEO's behalf on social housing energy efficiency, organised by BEIS. Neil Witney from BEIS knows a lot about EPCs and could be a useful contact on this. There is a consultation due out about EPC methodology and inaccuracy around solid wall measurements, where the U-value is better than previously thought.

5.4 BEIS are also planning to consult around boiler standards and are looking to make EPC ratings more accurate for high performance boilers. They will be looking at the cost effectiveness of Quantum Dimplex night storage heaters. They have been found to be very effective but there are rewiring costs to consider.

5.5 It looks as if they are considering not having any form of standard for social housing. There was discussion around abolishing the decent homes standards, as it is considered disproportionate between social and private housing. LAs and HAs are having to reduce rents in social housing. They need to look at the benefits if they are expecting work on energy efficiency. Social housing providers

were very candid in saying that their boards want them to become more business-like, but if they do they risk losing the social element of their work. The amount of social housing is falling as HAs and LAs are shedding stock. Some are building luxury housing to subsidise their business.

Other discussions

5.6 DNOs are interested in developing strategies and engaging with RSLs and LAs. Some have funding available. JKM has sent an email on this and recommends that people respond and invite them to attend ALEO regional meetings. They have their own priority services register. It is part of their obligation from Ofgem.

5.7 Western Power has been paying CAB for priority services work.

5.8 At the moment DNOs are getting paid for referrals which LAs are helping them with but getting nothing back.

Actions:

5.9 **RL to let CD know about remaining funds from North East CAN**

5.10 **RJ to forward minutes of the BEIS meeting she attended on social housing.**

6. Regional Updates

There wasn't sufficient time at the meeting for verbal updates. RL has received the following three written updates.

ACTION:

6.1 **ALL to send written regional updates to RL for this and future meetings.**

6.2 **Written update from: RJ, Chair of West Midlands ALEO**

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

The next West Midlands ALEO meeting will be held in November/December dependent on consultation responses.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

A sub-regional meeting was held by Act on Energy in September, where National Grid presented on their affordable warmth solutions.

The meeting also discussed the Ofgem consultations based on the CMA review.

Details of any current projects:

We are looking to explore HECA with the new officer at BEIS and how we can support/shape future reporting.

A number of councils are operating boiler on prescription schemes / winter warmth campaigns. There are still challenges with engagement of GPs.

Warwickshire are looking at the option of becoming a white label energy supplier, as are a few districts council across the midlands.

A number of councils are continuing to run switching campaigns with both Coventry and Solihull having had great success in encouraging people to switch.

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

As a region we have responded to the BEIS consultation on ECO Help to Heat and Ofgem's consultation on allocation of voluntary redress payments in enforcement cases. Some LAs also responded to Ofgem's consultations on tariff changes and changes to comparisons websites.

6.3 Written update from: KL, Chair of ALEO East Midlands

Details of any meetings held and/or forthcoming:

The last ALEO East Midland meeting was held on Friday 9th September at Leicester City Council, Leicester: Smart Energy GB sponsored this meeting.

Presentations included:

- Chair's Update, Karen Lond – ALEO East Midlands submitted a response to the Help to Heat consultation – still no feedback on the Bonfield review, Will Field advised this should be released soon
- Smart Meter rollout and the opportunities for LAs – Charles Malissard, Smart Energy GB
- HECA reporting moving forward – Will Field, BEIS – Will confirmed BEIS will be sending out a slightly updated guidance for HECA 2017 reporting and that beyond this the guidance and HECA reporting would be reviewed and updated pending ministerial sign off; Will confirmed that future reports would be looked at by BEIS. Collaborate working between health and local authorities on energy and sustainability
- Jerome Baddley, Head of Sustainable Development Unit, NHS England and PHE

The meeting was well attended with local authority officers from across the East Midlands.

The next ALEO East Midlands meeting will be held on 18th January 2017 - time to be confirmed. This meeting will be sponsored by E.ON and held at their offices.

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

SET-UP Smart Energy Grids Workshop – Held on Tuesday 4th October at Leicester, Attenborough Hall - for further information contact Aiden.Davis@leicester.gov.uk

PHE Midlands and East – Sustainable Development: Whole System Approach and Sustainable Development – Thursday 3rd November at University of Leicester.
See <http://www.phe-events.org.uk/mesdc2016>

NEA East Midlands Fuel Poverty Forum – 3rd November at Ellipse Energy in Leicester.

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

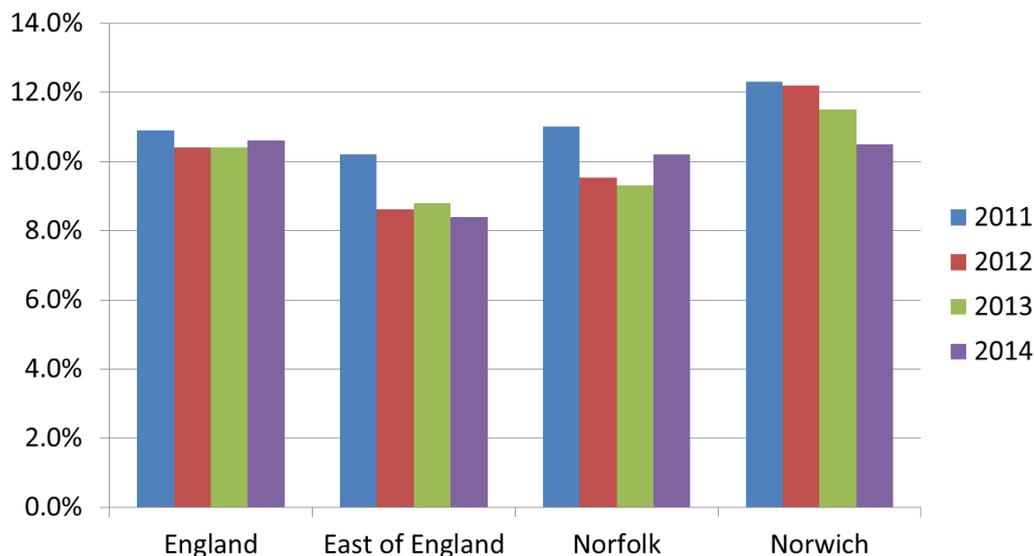
Offers of sponsorship for our ALEO East Midland meetings and free venues across the East Midlands would be appreciated: please contact karen.lond@west-lindsey.gov.uk or david.young@leicester.gov.uk, if you are interested in sponsoring us or have a room available for a meeting.

6.4 Written update from: PH, Chair of ALEO East

For this update I want to focus upon the excellent work being undertaken in three of our areas:

Norwich City Council

Norwich City Council have been working hard to reduce fuel poverty and excess winter deaths (EWDs) since 2012/13. In Norwich we believe that 10% of households are experiencing fuel poverty. That equates to a staggering 6,523 households. However, progress is being made. The graph below shows our continual improvement addressing this issue. There is also a reduction in EWDs over the same period.



Norwich was the first city in the UK to start “collective switching” and has helped a number of councils locally and nationally to set up and run their schemes via our procurement framework and/or marketing advice. Presently we are maintaining the Norfolk Big Switch and Save partnership. In 2016 we engaged with 1,580 people in Norwich in the spring and expect to assist another 2,000 this winter. <http://www.bigswitchandsave.co.uk>

This winter Norwich City Council will be working with British Gas to promote fully funded replacement boilers via ECO grants to the vulnerable and fuel poor worth over £500,000 as well as our usual promotions with Aran for loft and cavity wall insulation. This work is branded under the Cosy City banner. <http://www.cosycity.co.uk>

In addition, to foster better working between agencies and the 3rd sector, Norwich City Council will be working to deliver the council’s 3rd Warm and Well event, called Winter Wellbeing. This event has grown to be Norfolk’s premier pre-winter networking event.

Peterborough – Green Energy Switch

Green Energy Switch have worked in partnership with Peterborough Energy to promote and increase awareness of a locally owned, not-for-profit low-cost energy alternative. Peterborough Energy, which is supplied by OVO Energy but managed and administered by Peterborough City Council, aims to reduce fuel poverty amongst Peterborough residents in light of the ever-increasing price of tariffs by the Big Six suppliers. Of the 4,800 customers that have switched to Peterborough Energy so far, an average of £248 has been saved per annum.

At the heart of this impressive growth are the home visits conducted by Green Energy Switch’s Home Visits Team. The Team visit residents in every corner of the city, providing residents with simple and achievable energy conservation advice, expertise on their energy bills and the opportunity to make the considerable savings with Peterborough Energy. In addition, all switchers receive a free energy saving pack with items to enable a low energy lifestyle, are entered into a monthly prize draw for shopping vouchers and are also encouraged to refer friends and family with the chance to collect Amazon Vouchers.

These home visits have been warmly received by residents and have enabled the Peterborough Energy brand to develop from strength to strength and integrate itself as a friendly and inexpensive alternative across the city.

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

St Edmundsbury Borough Council has a number of park home sites and has long recognised the clear need for the retrofit of these prefabricated structures, given the higher than average risk of fuel poverty amongst park home residents. In 2015, a successful bid was submitted to National Grid’s Energy Innovation Fund to fund energy efficiency improvements at Shepherds Grove Park in Stanton, Suffolk.

In total, £100,000 was secured to fund new gas central heating systems and external wall insulation (EWI). National Grid also installed new gas connections to 14 homes where the residents were over

the age of 70. In addition, match funding was provided by St Edmundsbury Borough Council and the county-wide Warm Homes Healthy People project.

Shepherds Grove Park was selected due to the poor standard of existing insulation and the high level of fuel poverty among residents, all of whom are over 55 years old. Many are retired and spend considerable periods of time at home, so being able to maintain a warm and affordable property is essential.

Park homes have traditionally missed out on nationally mandated insulation programmes due to their classification as temporary accommodation. A prerequisite for our installer partner Cornerstone (East Anglia) Limited was being able to secure a 25 year installation warranty for the EWI, as this has not previously been possible.

The properties insulated comprised a number of different park homes styles in various states of repair, with works including all necessary enabling, adaptation and remedial works to prepare the properties for the Alumasc Swisstherm external wall insulation system. Bespoke aluminium powder coated extended window sills were fitted to compensate for the additional wall thickness, with flashing details also installed under the verge of the roof where required.

The installer Cornerstone appointed an experienced Site Manager and a Resident Liaison Officer, who liaised with the resident Site Manager on a daily basis under the supervision of the Council, ensuring excellent levels of resident satisfaction with the end to end process.

The previously poorly insulated walls achieved a post-installation U-Value of 0.29 W/m²K after the application of insulation. Residents were able to choose from a wide range of finish colours, with the final decorative silicone render coat rejuvenating the properties and providing long-term protection, mitigating the need for future repainting of the external surface.

The measures were installed between December 2015 and February 2016. In total, 24 properties benefitted from external wall insulation, with ten of these also receiving new gas central heating systems. The properties with existing heating systems, and therefore only receiving EWI, are expected to enjoy lifetime carbon savings of 25 tonnes and energy bill reductions of at least £237 per year. Park homes receiving both measures are expected to benefit from lifetime carbon savings of 64 tonnes and energy bill reductions of £402 per year.

Residents have reported a significant improvement in comfort levels in their properties, with many commenting that their thermostat has been turned down a few degrees and that their home remains warmer longer once the heating is turned off. Many residents have been lifted out of fuel poverty by the scheme, which has been very well received and sets an excellent template for future park home retrofit in the region.



PHOTO CAPTION: An insulated park home at Shepherds Grove Park

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

ALEO East's next meeting is due in mid-November.

6.5 Written update from: MO, Chair of ALEO London

Details of any other events held and/or forthcoming:

A sub-regional meeting was held on 18 October. There were 25 attendees. The agenda included:

- London Members survey
- Public health evaluation (with a presentation from Camden and Islington Public Health)
- Smart meters (with presentations from Smart Energy GB and Thames Water)

Details of any current projects:

Groundwork's redress-funded WARMTH scheme is delivering 2,600 home visits in 2016 across 11 local authority areas: Camden; Ealing; Greenwich; Hammersmith and Fulham; Haringey; Hounslow; Kensington & Chelsea; Lewisham; Sutton; Tower Hamlets; Waltham Forest.

Waltham Forest are developing a heat network for a large regeneration site, and currently at the stage of approving design and looking at metering and billing.

Islington have just launched our carbon offset fund, which takes money from developers and invests it in high rise EWI, our Warmth on Prescription programme and our district heating programmes.

Ealing are evaluating our fuel poverty project with a view to re-tendering early next year. We are working with British Gas on HHCRO and would welcome feedback from other local authorities on their experience of the same.

Harrow's Warm Homes Healthy People is funded by Public Health until March 2017 although a restructure has now cut the officer resource leading the project.

Lambeth are awaiting the outcome of the ECO consultation so that we can put a new fuel poverty strategy in place.

Kensington and Chelsea's Healthier Homes fuel poverty scheme is running again this winter. Lewisham has funding from Smart Energy GB towards outreach on smart meters. Lewisham is also carrying out an EAGA-funded research project with SE² looking at the cost effectiveness of referral routes.

Camden's energy efficiency programmes include our ongoing insulation programme of council stock properties, cross tenure Well and Warm home visit service, energy efficiency grants for low income private sector residents and also our Green Camden Helpline and WISH+ health and wellbeing referral hub. Camden are also carrying out additional comms in our designated 'warm home zones' - areas which have high levels of poor health, inefficient housing and low income using IMD, (anonymised) Housing Benefit and EPC data.

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

Members of the London ALEO committee are following up with the Greater London Authority following their announcement of a new Fuel Poverty Strategy for London.

7. Guest: Jerome Baddley, Head of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit

7.1 JB gave a presentation on the NHS Sustainable Development Unit SDU. Please also refer to the presentation slides.

7.2 The unit was established in 2007 and is co-funded by Public Health England and NHS England but has a remit across the health and social care system.

The SDU wrote the NHS Sustainable Development Strategy which was adopted across the system and by arms-length bodies commissioning the design of healthcare services looking at things like waste management, transport, procurement etc.

There is a key-stakeholders group which includes NICE, the Care Quality Commission, the Department of Health and NHS property services and other arms-length bodies.

7.3 There is currently a consultation on care homes with a deadline of 21 October. JB encouraged responses advocating the introduction of service clause 18 from the long-form contract into the short-form contract, which requires care homes to have a sustainable development management plan (SDMP). Otherwise there is no requirement for them to put in place climate change adaptation

measures against heatwaves etc, such as the one in 2013 which result in 2,000 excess deaths, the majority of which were in care homes.

7.4 It is not yet a requirement for GPs to have a SDMP. For CCGs it's an expectation that they have a SDMP. The information is published on the SDU website, where you can see if your CCG has a SDMP.

Quoting from the Five Year Forward View can help when working with CCGs.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework website tells you how many of your local organisations have an SDMP.

7.5 The SDU has published a report on the carbon savings made by the system since 2007 (2.4 million tonnes largely in estates).

There is less burden of mandate placed on foundation trusts to report (although this might change in the future) but they still have to deliver.

7.6 Between 5 and 10 per cent of all road traffic is in some way health related. Road traffic air pollution results in around 40,000 excess deaths per year. JB has commissioned a report on this from the Commission on Air Pollution. This will give the official statistics on excess deaths caused by health related road traffic.

7.7 The SDU has started to build a better nationwide network. They have regional leads and are now putting in place local county-level ambassadors. Engaging with ALEO is part of this. The SDU would like to collaborate with ALEO around conferences, awards, magazine articles, press releases etc. JB would like to hear from the Executive on how much scope there is to work together and suggestions on how the SDU could collaborate with ALEO.

7.8 LA fuel poverty officers have schemes to stop bed blocking by insulating houses so they are warm enough for patients to return to. This saves money for the NHS. It would be useful to have the support on the SDU for lobbying CCGs on this.

7.9 It is useful to put a value on the number of days and the carbon savings of such schemes.

7.10 This is also a problem with excess winter deaths statistics as it's very difficult to attribute specific deaths to cold homes, as there are other factors such as flu epidemics.

7.11 In food banks people are bringing back food that they have to cook because they can't afford the energy. This can also affect nutrition.

7.12 Public health is more likely to take these things into account than CCGs. If ALEO knows of test resources and tools, the SDU could collaborate to make sure these are publicised for example.

7.13 It was asked whether it is mainly economics that drives things.

7.14 Economics is a big driver but environmental, clinical and social values are also considered. The SDU is trying to increase the weighting given to these.

7.15 There is now a sustainability impact assessment model on the SDU website, which has been developed in the last year by a CCG, including a far broader range of impact assessments. It's not universally used. NHS England has a light-touch relationship with CCGs so it doesn't mandate that they use it.

7.16 If LAs can show there is also an economic value to the social elements, that will add value, e.g. if you can say that this will reduce bed days by x this will save y pounds for the NHS and also convert to carbon emissions to waste and water, which will also save money. There is guidance on Foot-printing Care Pathways (see slides). At the back there is a reference case exemplar showing the equivalent of one bed day in tonnes of carbon, tonnes of waste and litres of water.

7.17 The PM10 emissions of taking someone to hospital, visitors etc is causing ill health, e.g COPD and Asthma. This links to LA local transport plans.

7.18 There are lots of collaborations with unitary authorities but second-tier and district councils tend to be overlooked.

7.19 There are great examples of best practice but there is currently no universal approach.

7.20 We need things like BREEAM Assessments and sustainable travel plans in business case templates.

7.21 At the last ALEO East Midlands meeting, JB spoke to Smart Energy GB about collaboration to encourage the roll-out of smart meters.

7.22 It was asked how LAs should report the impacts of their energy efficiency programmes in the most compelling format.

7.23 If LAs have case studies on their programmes showing value and impact, the SDU would want to cascade those out. JB invited the group to send any reports to the SDU, which might be able to give some guidance on collating and quantifying the data and disseminating the reports.

7.24 JKM would like to see county and sub-regional energy partnerships, which exist in some places already, with councils, hospitals, universities, etc, working together.

7.25 There is a lot of potential for collaboration between the SDU and ALEO. If you have any further suggestions on collaboration please send them to JB, JKM and RL.

7.26 The group thanked JB for attending.

8.1 There was no further business.

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 The next meeting will be held on 19 January 2017 at Camden Town Hall, London.