



**12.30-13.45 10 December 2015**

**Committee Room 6, Scottish Parliament**

***Renewables and energy efficiency: the state of the nation***

**Convenor: Jim Eadie MSP**

### **1. Attendees**

A provisional list of attendees is attached to the end of this note. If you attended and are not shown on the list, please email Gavin Donoghue ([gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com)).

### **2. Introduction and approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Jim Eadie MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the catering arriving late.

He asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the meeting on 8 October 2015 which had been circulated to members.

There were no suggestions or corrections. Sarah Boyack MSP agreed and John Mclean seconded that the minutes represented an accurate record of the last meeting.

### **3. Presentations**

The convenor then introduced the presenters:

#### **Jenny Hogan, Director of Policy at Scottish Renewables**

Jenny outlined the negative effects of a number of recent UK Government decisions on funding for renewables and touched on the issues that will define the future of the sector, including the lack of a clear route to market for some technologies, the UK behind on its current carbon budget, and current support for new-build gas and nuclear.

Jenny then touched on the role of the Scottish Government in helping to meet its own renewables targets, which are currently at risk of being missed. These included, renewing our ambitions up until 2020 and then looking beyond to 2030. She also spoke about the need for an integrated energy system, covering electricity, heat and transport, a strategy to link up national and local energy and a policies from the Scottish Government that will help increase the competitiveness of Scotland's renewables sector.

#### **Elizabeth Leighton, Policy advisor at the Existing Homes Alliance Scotland**

Elizabeth started by referring back to previous presentations on the subject around the same time last year before touching on previous policy documents from 2008 which called for a national retrofit strategy, area based schemes, low carbon zones and minimum standards sale and rental, as well as the Scottish Government's Climate Change (Scotland) Act from 2009.

She then spoke about the Scottish Government's decision in 2015 to designate energy efficiency as a National Infrastructure Priority as a potential game-changer and a policy which could integrate with policies on District Heating and domestic renewable energy, and reduce fuel poverty as part to effort to tackle climate change.

Elizabeth then talked about the Existing Homes Alliance's main aim which is that no one should be in a hard to heat, draughty home by 2025. She compared the economic benefits of this policy compare favourably with policies such as HS2 and the installation of smart meters. However, she admitted that this policy would not be cheap, costing £10.7 billion over 10 years (£4.5 billion of which would be publicly funded).

Jim Eadie MSP then thanked both speakers for their presentations.

#### 4. Questions

A range of questions were posed, including:

- Liam McArthur MSP asked whether installing air-source and ground-source heat pumps at the expense of measures like insulation is building up problems for the future?
- Pete Roche asked about interconnectors to the Scottish islands, and whether projects in these areas would collapse by spring if there wasn't any further movement on CfDs?
- John McKinney asked whether we should be concentrating on ensuring homes weren't free from serious disrepair, i.e. they are wind and water tight?
  - Elizabeth stated that the Scottish Government is looking at new standards for homes as part of their efforts to make energy efficiency a National Infrastructure Priority
  - Jenny said that time will tell on CfD allocation round, and whether there will be a budget allocated time for projects on remote islands.
- James asked whether there would be an issue of equity with any legislation passing on obligations to the sellers of properties to get them up to a certain EPC standard.
- Tariq Muneer asked what the Scottish Government was set to achieve by 2020.
  - Jenny Hogan stated that Scottish Renewables' analysis showed that by 2020 the Scottish Government is on track to meet the equivalent of 87% of electricity demand from renewables.
- Scott Duncan asked how government policy recognises community groups.
  - Elizabeth stated that there had been discussion on passing on the obligation, and they were clear that it would be to the buyer not the seller, and how best to ensure vulnerable people were not penalised. She also stated that there was room for community groups.
  - Liam McArthur MSP stated that requiring a band C EOC Rating would completely halt the market in Orkney
    - Elizabeth stated that band C is only the aspiration
- Mark Winskel asked whether UK Government policy was reliant on low gas prices into the future, and what would this mean for renewables/ energy efficiency.
  - Elizabeth stated that investment case would still stand in longer terms as reliance on gas raises security of supply issues.
- Robin Parker asked what more can be done on renewable heat.
  - Jenny stated that air and ground source heat pumps, biomass and district heating systems would all be needed and that as well as funding at a UK level, the Scottish Government should have an integrated energy strategy.
- Graham Lang made a point about the cost of importing electricity as Scotland is about to become a net importer.

Please note the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting.

## 5. Date and Topic of Next Meeting

The next meeting will take place on 11 February 2016 between 12.30pm and 2.00pm. The topic of the meeting will be a '*Spotlight on Orkney*'.

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact the secretariat, Gavin Donoghue ([gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com](mailto:gdonoghue@scottishrenewables.com)).

## 6. Attendees

<b>Neil</b>	<b>Anderson</b>
<b>Sarah</b>	<b>Boyack MSP</b>
<b>Scott</b>	<b>Bryant</b>
<b>Finlay</b>	<b>Buchanan</b>
<b>Matthew</b>	<b>Burnett</b>
<b>Chris</b>	<b>Cook</b>
<b>Ian</b>	<b>Cuthbert</b>
<b>Aisling</b>	<b>Doyle</b>
<b>Jim</b>	<b>Eadie MSP</b>
<b>Hew</b>	<b>Edgar</b>
<b>Tracey</b>	<b>Exton</b>
<b>Shona</b>	<b>Fisher</b>
<b>Karen</b>	<b>Freel</b>
<b>Roderick</b>	<b>Galbraith</b>
<b>Nigel</b>	<b>Holmes</b>
<b>Linda</b>	<b>Holt</b>

<b>Anthony</b>	<b>Kyriakides</b>
<b>Graham</b>	<b>Lang</b>
<b>Ragne</b>	<b>Low</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>Maclean</b>
<b>Ed</b>	<b>Maddox</b>
<b>Liam</b>	<b>McArthur MSP</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>McKinney</b>
<b>Sam</b>	<b>McMillan</b>
<b>Beatrice</b>	<b>Morrice</b>
<b>Paul</b>	<b>Mullan</b>
<b>Tariq</b>	<b>Muneer</b>
<b>Jason</b>	<b>Ormiston</b>
<b>Andrew</b>	<b>Ramand</b>
<b>Pete</b>	<b>Roche</b>
<b>James</b>	<b>Salmon</b>
<b>Fraser</b>	<b>Stewart</b>
<b>Will</b>	<b>Sutton</b>
<b>David</b>	<b>Torrance MSP</b>
<b>Gordon</b>	<b>Watt</b>
<b>Janette</b>	<b>Webb</b>
<b>Mark</b>	<b>Whittet</b>
<b>Stephen</b>	<b>Young</b>