



**12.30-13.35 21 March 2013**

**Committee Room 1, Scottish Parliament**

**Chair: Jim Eadie MSP**

**Scotland's Housing Retrofit Agenda**

**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 Elaine Waterson (elaine.waterson@est.org.uk).

**2. Introduction**

Jim Eadie MSP welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the speakers.

**3. Presentation: The Scottish Government's forthcoming Sustainable Housing Strategy, David Fotheringham (Scottish Government)**

David Fotheringham from the Scottish Government outlined the background to the Sustainable Housing Strategy (SHS), and provided some details about the progress that has been made to date in improving the energy efficiency of Scotland's housing stock – including the fact that the % of homes with a 'good' NHER rating more than doubled between 2002-03 and 2011, with 65% of homes in Scotland now rated 'good'. He then went on to highlight that more needs to be done including tackling the 546,000 solid walls in Scotland that need insulation. He then talked about some of the different elements of the strategy – market transformation and the need to ensure that quality and energy efficiency of homes are valued by buyers, the role of standards and regulation in both social and private housing, and the need to underpin activity with incentives. He then went on to provide more details about the Home Energy Efficiency Programmes for Scotland (HEEPS), and discussed next steps – which include: a) launching HEEPS, b) publishing the SHS (in the first half of 2013), c) publishing the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing (EESH) 2020 milestone and review, and d) continued work on building standards for new and existing properties, and e) on-going work with the private sector on market transformation.

**4. Presentation: Existing Homes: The Challenge Ahead – A View from the Existing Homes Alliance Scotland (ExHAS), David Stewart (SFHA, representing ExHAS)**

David Stewart provided some background information about the ExHAS and its members. He then went on to highlight the contribution that homes make to Scotland's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and the opportunities that exist in this sector to reduce emissions, and discussed how these opportunities could be realised – specifically the need for additional funding, minimum standards, and a national

retrofit programme. He went on to congratulate the Scottish Government on its new HEEPS and on its continued support for energy efficiency programmes (against a background of reduced funding for this type of activity in other parts of the UK). Finally, he reiterated the on-going need for regulation, incentives and, support and advice.

#### **5. Presentation: Tackling Fuel Poverty – The Role of Retrofitting Existing Homes, Barbara Atterson (Energy Action Scotland (EAS))**

Barbara Atterson from EAS highlighted the scale of the fuel poverty problem in Scotland, and noted that EAS estimate there to be 900,000 homes in fuel poverty in Scotland. She went on to provide details of the costs of energy for an average household in Scotland. Heating and hot water make up the majority (61%) of energy costs and cost £565 and £256 per year respectively. She also talked about current energy costs in the context of current benefit/pension levels and highlighted the % of income that some households need to spend in order to heat their homes to an adequate temperature. She then went on to talk about the health impacts of fuel poverty and highlighted the need for more joined up working between the health, housing and fuel poverty sectors. She also noted that while average household consumption of gas and electricity fell by 11.3% in the decade between 2001 and 2011, average energy bills more than doubled in the same period. She then outlined actions that householders can take and detailed existing support schemes. Finally, she highlighted that EAS would like to see the provision of additional tailored and specific advice for householders and noted that in many cases this needs to be face-to-face.

#### **6. Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

Bill Walker MSP and Nigel Holmes (Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association) agreed that the minutes represented an accurate description of the last meeting, and no one suggested any corrections.

#### **7. Questions**

A range of questions were directed at the panel; please note that the intention of this meeting note is not to record a verbatim account of the meeting. Questions posed to the panel included:

- **Ariane Loening** asked about how to reconcile the need for ventilation with the installation of insulation.
- **Marco Biagi MSP** asked about pre 1919 tenements, how much of a problem these represented and how much would need to be done to improve their energy performance both before and after 2020.
- **Nigel Holmes** from the **Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association** asked about the 11.3% reduction in household electricity and gas consumption between 2001 and 2011 and whether reductions between now and 2020 are likely to be greater or less than this.

**David Fotheringham** agreed that traditional tenements represented a challenge, and highlighted that they represented a significant proportion of Scotland's housing stock. He went on to note that technically they are not the worst performing homes in terms of energy efficiency – particularly where they are on the gas grid. He also highlighted that there are technical options available to

improve the energy efficiency of tenements, and that Historic Scotland has done considerable work in this area. He also noted some on-going Consumer Focus Scotland work in this area.

In terms of reducing energy consumption in households between now and 2020 he noted that the draft RPP2 projects a 37% reduction in emissions from homes by 2020.

**Barbara Atterson** emphasised that behaviour change will be key to reducing emissions in the housing sector and noted the sheer numbers of energy using appliances that people now have in their homes and that education and advice will be key to tackling this.

**Roger Curtis** from **Historic Scotland** referred to a number of Historic Scotland pilot projects in socially rented homes. The pilot is now into its third winter and there have been no issues with damp so far. Roger also highlighted Historic Scotland's recently published guidance on improving the energy performance of traditional buildings which can be found on their website.

- **John McKinney** from the **National Federation of Roofing Contractors** suggested that the primary issue should be making properties wind and water tight, and asked the panel for their thoughts on this.

Unfortunately the meeting had to end unexpectedly at this point. Changes to parliamentary business meant that the Committee room had to be vacated earlier than had been previously advised.

## 8. AOB

For suggestions for correction of this note and to request copies of presentations, please contact Elaine Waterson ([elaine.waterson@est.org.uk](mailto:elaine.waterson@est.org.uk)).

## 9. Attendees

First Name	Surname	Organisation
Elaine	Waterson	Energy Saving Trust
Marco	Biagi	MSP
Blair	Armstrong	Mathie McIntyre
Jill	Brown	Jill Brown Media Limited
Liam	McArthur	MSP
David	Torrance	MSP
Nigel	Holmes	Scottish Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association
Bill	Walker	MSP
Mark	Winskel	UK Energy Research Centre
Bill	Rodger	
Bruce	McGregor	Blue Yonder Energy Solutions
Lorna	Ross	iPOWER
David	Somervell	University of Edinburgh
Pete	Roche	Edinburgh Energy and Environment Consultancy
Roger	Curtis	Historic Scotland
John	McKinney	National Federation of Roofing Contractors

Ken	Fisher	5th Element Ltd
Sue	Kearns	Scottish Government
Ragne	Low	ClimateXChange
Gordon	Morgan	Reid Foundation
Neil	Anderson	Ledingham Chalmers LLP, Solicitors
Ariane	Loening	
Neil	Phillips	Positive Solutions (Glasgow)
James	Thomson	West Coast Energy
Andrew	Watson	Scottish Power
Ian	Lindsay	eurowind UK Ltd
Sophia	Goring	College Public Policy (Scotland)
Annie	McGovern	Consumer Focus Scotland
Susan	McDonald	HBJ Gateley
Emma	Megaughin	Bellenden
Patrick	Jack	Parliamentary researcher
Antoine	LeFloch	Intern in Rob Gibson's office
John	Sheridan	2020 climate group (chair of the Built environment subgroup)
Jim	Hart	Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation
Cowles	Ostrander	Intern in David Torrance's office
David	Stewart	Existing Homes Alliance Scotland
Barbara	Atterson	Energy Action Scotland
David	Fotheringham	Scottish Government
Andrew	Robinson	Scottish Government
Jim	Eadie	MSP
Patrick	Harvie	MSP
Theresa	Bray	Changeworks