



AGM

12.45pm, Tuesday 3 October 2019

Committee Room 5

The Scottish Parliament

Chair: Sarah Boyack MSP

1. Attendees and Presentations

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 by Chair and approval of minutes from the last meeting

Sarah Boyack MSP welcomed everyone to the AGM. Alexander Burnett MSP thanked Sarah Boyack MSP for stepping in at the last minute to chair the meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 6 June 2019, had been sent round group members in advance and the secretariat received no requests for additions or corrections. The group agreed that these provided an accurate account of the meeting.

3. Proposed changes to SPREEE

Elaine Waterson highlighted that a number of MSPs have told the group's secretariat (Elaine Waterson and Peter Speirs) that they feel SPREEE needs to be re-energised. She went on to note that, as a result, the group's secretariat has suggested a number of changes which the conveners signalled their support for in advance of the meeting. The proposed changes are as follows:

- Reducing the core meetings to two per year.
- Allowing for more rapid ad hoc meetings on topics as they arise, as appropriate.
- A commitment from the secretariat to reduce the number of speakers to two and to have them be more engaging.
- A change to the format to make it more of a roundtable discussion rather than presentations followed by a small number of questions.
- A better steer from MSPs as to the specific topics of meetings.
- A push for meeting topics and content to inform MSPs' activity and, ideally, legislation, PQs etc. and to have Ministers attend if possible.

The group was then asked for their feedback on the proposals.

Graham Simpson MSP noted that he had not been to a SPREEE meeting before. He went on to note that all Cross-Party Groups are struggling to get MSPs to attend and he thought the proposed changes sounded like good ideas – in particular the proposals to reduce the number of meetings and to make the meetings more focussed.

Andy Wightman MSP said that he had observed that Cross-Party Groups tend to work best when they *'really get their teeth into something'*. He went on to highlight that he is a member of the Economy, Energy and Fair Work Committee and that this Committee still doesn't do as much work on energy as he feels they should. He then suggested that letters/memos from Cross-Party Groups carry lots of weight and that the group should consider what kind of activism it could do.

Sarah Boyack MSP highlighted the recent passing of the of the Climate Bill and suggested that the group could consider what has to happen in the housing sector as a result of the new targets. She highlighted the 2030 target in particular (a 75% reduction in emissions) noting that the next 10 years would be a big challenge and that the group could help push the agenda forwards. She also highlighted her support for the proposal to make meetings more focussed.

Joan Pisanek from Sunamp proposed that small working groups be set up so that meeting participants could come to meetings better prepared. Peter Spiers noted that the secretariat was not resourced to support this activity and that as such it would need to be resourced separately and sit outside of the formal support provided to the group provided by Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Renewables.

Chris Cook suggested that a change in market structure was required from energy being viewed as a commodity to energy being viewed as a service. He went on to suggest that projects could be brought to the group where input is required from MSPs. Sarah Boyack MSP then reminded members that this part of the agenda was focussed on the process rather than the work programme and noted that suggestions for the work programme would be discussed later in the meeting.

Keith Baker noted that he agreed with many of the comments provided by others and highlighted the importance of ensuring that commercial interests don't become dominant.

Dominic Galbraith emphasised the importance of politicians speaking with accuracy and the role that this group could play in providing factual information to MSPs.

Paul Mosely said that he thinks the current format has worked well and noted his concern that if the number of meetings reduces there is a risk that momentum might be lost. He also expressed concern that due to pressure on rooms in the Scottish Parliament ad hoc meetings might not be possible. Sarah Boyack MSP agreed that ad hoc meetings might be difficult to do.

Fiona Savage suggested that it would be helpful for meetings to have clear outcomes.

Andy Wightman MSP noted the importance of the group having a coherent idea about what it wanted to do and of being task oriented. He highlighted that the work on tenement reform had been spun out of a cross party group.

Graham Simpson MSP said that the conveners and co-conveners of the group needed to sit down before the next meeting and agree which changes should be taken forward.

4. AGM Business

4.1 Election of Office Bearers

The nominations for the positions of Convener (x2) and Deputy Convener (x2) were circulated to the membership on 27th September in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated.

The nominations for the 2 secretary posts were also circulated in advance of the meeting. No one else was nominated.

- Mark Ruskell MSP was moved for convener by Keith Baker and seconded by Andy Wightman MSP.
- Liam McArthur MSP was moved for convener by Graham Simpson MSP and seconded by Andy Wightman MSP.
- Claudia Beamish MSP was moved for deputy convener by Joan Pisanek and seconded by Daphne Vlastari.
- Alexander Burnett MSP was moved for deputy convener by Graham Simpson MSP and seconded by Joan Pisanek.
- Peter Spiers of Scottish Renewables and Elaine Waterson of Energy Saving Trust were moved for the secretariat positions by Sarah Boyack MSP.

The group's office bearers are therefore:

Conveners:

- Liam McArthur MSP
- Mark Ruskell MSP

Deputy Conveners:

- Claudia Beamish MSP
- Alexander Burnett MSP

The group's secretaries are therefore:

- Peter Spiers, Scottish Renewables - Secretary (Renewable Energy) and Treasurer
- Elaine Waterson, Energy Saving Trust – Secretary (Energy Efficiency)

3.2 Approval of Annual Return

Sarah Boyack MSP asked if there were any corrections to the Annual Return which was emailed to group members in advance of the meeting and sets out the group's activities over the previous year and the financial benefits received by the group from Energy Saving Trust and Scottish Renewables. There were no suggestions or corrections. The group therefore agreed that the Annual Return could be submitted.

4. Discussion of future work programme (for 2018/19)

Sarah Boyack MSP noted that a number of suggestions for meeting topics had been received in advance of the AGM. These are as follows:

- Net Zero: the whole energy system challenge.
- Just Transition: decarbonising heat and transport.
- Orkney: learning by doing at the leading edge of renewables.
- The smart meter roll out and Smart Energy GB's Smart Future research.
- The need for 'meaningful public consent' in implementing the energy transformation (ref: the work done by Simon Roberts at CSE).
- How local authorities are responding to declarations of a climate emergency and for Scottish authorities to learn more about what is happening south of the border in places like Nottingham, Bristol and Warrington – in particular how these authorities are financing the transformation.

- The Climate Emergency Response Group's recommendations in relation to renewables and energy efficiency.

Sarah Boyack MSP went on to ask for comments on these suggestions and for any additional suggestions that members of the group might have.

A number of additional suggestions were provided. These are summarised below:

- The action needed to meet the 75% emissions reduction target by 2030/Implications of the new emissions reduction targets.
- Planning issues and in particular NPF4.
- A Scottish Energy Development Agency.
- EPCs and data.
- The meaning of carbon reduction.
- Future routes to market for subsidy free renewable energy.
- Demand reduction.
- Smart energy systems.
- Public education/engagement.
- Localisation of generation/bottom up approaches.

Graham Simpson MSP said that the conveners and co-conveners of the group needed to sit down before the next meeting and agree which topics should be prioritised.

5. Dates of future meetings

Sarah Boyack MSP noted that if everyone is happy to move to 2 core meetings we will aim to have meetings in:

- Late January/early February 2020.
- Early June 2020.

Elaine Waterson suggested that it might make sense to book an additional slot so to allow for a potential ad hoc meeting.

Elain Waterson agreed to circulate meeting dates to the group by e-mail.

6. AOB

Fiona Savage and Chris Cook proposed that the Windfarms should take on the Danish model of being local, as per the map they shared with the group.

7. Attendees

Members

Keith	Baker
Sarah	Boyack MSP
Alexander	Burnett MSP
Chris	Cook
Tanya	Ewing

Roderick	Galbraith
Marcelina	Hamilton
Jillian	Henderson
Atzin	Madrid
Paul	Moseley
Simon	Peltenburg
Joan	Pisaneck
Fiona	Savage
Graham	Simpson MSP
Peter	Speirs
Daphne	Vlastari
Elaine	Waterson
Andy	Wightman MSP

Non-member guests

There were no non-member guests in attendance.

For suggestions of corrections for this note please contact the secretariat, Elaine Waterson (Elaine.waterson@est.org.uk).