

The Clerk,
Energy and Climate Change
Committee,
14 Tothill Street,
London,
SW1H 9NB

Contact: Steve Craddock
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Date: 12 August 2015

Dear Sir/Madam,

CALL FOR EVIDENCE: Environment and Climate Change Committee (ECC) priorities for holding Government to account – London Councils’ submission

London Councils is committed to fighting for resources for London and getting the best possible deal for London’s 33 councils. Part think-tank, part lobbying organisation, and part service provider, London Councils formulates policies, organises campaigns and runs a range of services all designed to make life better for Londoners.

Given DECC’s priorities of ‘supporting investment in the UK’s energy infrastructure, supporting consumers and keeping energy bills down, and promoting action in the EU and internationally to maintain energy security and mitigate dangerous climate change’, London Councils considers that the following should be priorities for scrutiny by the ECC over the next twelve months:

- 1.1 *What impact has the decision not to implement the zero carbon homes standard (including allowable solutions) and to scrap the Green Deal, without a replacement, had on the UK’s ability to meet future carbon budgets and tackle fuel poverty? We consider that the Government should be asked what viability evidence it has to indicate that the zero carbon homes standard is a barrier to housing development and when this suggests that the standard should be introduced.*
- 1.2 *What is the role and purpose of the Climate Change Levy now that the exemption for renewable electricity has been removed? What impact will this have on the UK’s ability to meet renewable energy targets and carbon budgets and the growth of the UK’s renewable energy economy?*

London Councils currently considers that the following should be priorities for scrutiny by the ECC over the next five years:

- 1.3 *The recently announced review of Feed in Tariffs should be a priority for the ECC, as more details emerge from the Government. This may include the proposed change to remove pre-accreditation and pre-registration from the Feed in Tariff and consideration of the impact that this will have on investor confidence, including in the community sector.*

- 1.4 *What impact will the changes to Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) from April 2017, in particular the standard rate for all vehicles except those emitting zero CO2 g/km, have on the uptake of ultra-low emissions vehicles (which are currently defined as emitting 75 CO2 g/km or less)?*
- 1.5 *What progress is the Government making towards its manifesto commitment of every home and business in the country having a Smart Meter by 2020 to provide customers with instant, accurate bills to aid switching? What is the timetable for putting in place arrangements to allow consumers to switch within one day?*

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julian Bell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish underneath the name.

Cllr Julian Bell, Chair of London Councils Transport and Environment Committee (TEC)