

**Home Energy Conservation Act – Approval of Report**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Kit Taylor
Portfolio Holder Consulted	Yes
Relevant Head of Service	Guy Revans
Ward(s) Affected	All
Ward Councillor(s) Consulted	n/a
Key Decision / Non-Key Decision	Non-Key

**1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 The Council is formally required to present a ‘further report’ to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) under the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 (HECA) by 31.3.13. This further report is included in Appendix 1.
- 1.2 The report specifically commits the Authority to undertake its obligations in relation to domestic home energy efficiency to tackle fuel security, combat fuel poverty, and contribute to mitigation of carbon emissions locally. The report details progress made so far against these obligations and concludes that we will participate in, and use the Green Deal and ECO (Energy Company Obligation – replacing all previous subsidies for energy efficiency) as our main delivery mechanism for HECA aims.
- 1.3. The Council has been asked within DECC guidance to set “ambitious” targets to improve home energy efficiency. Although the Council is committed to acting on issues relating to energy, and has agreed strategies in place to deliver on these issues, the report (Appendix 1) specifically does not set targets to be achieved in the short or long term, citing the unknown additional resource implications as the reason not to set specific targets. The Council would however, seek to establish targets in the future when there is a clearer idea of how the Green Deal will be delivered.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 That Members note and approve the report Appendix 1 for submission to DECC and publication on the Council’s website.
- 2.2 That Members note the current position in relation to the Green Deal.

**3. KEY ISSUES**

**Financial Implications**

- 3.1 If the Council does not commit to specific targets, HECA in itself does not have any additional financial burdens.

- 3.2 However, delivering a comprehensive Green Deal in Bromsgrove is likely to have financial/resource implications; the extent of which is dependent on which delivery mechanism is chosen (either a Worcestershire based Community Interest Company) or a Bromsgrove-Redditch only contract under the Birmingham Energy Savers procurement framework (run by Carillion).
- 3.3. Members have been made aware of this future decision as part of budget setting for 2013/14 and a full report will be required when more information is available (likely to be April/May 2013). At this later stage, a key decision will be required from Council.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.3 The Home Energy Conservation Act 1995 places a duty on local authorities to submit reports to the Secretary of State. The current requirement to submit a report by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 is set out in DECC Guidance which was issued in July 2012. The Council is therefore required to compile and submit the report by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 in order to meet it's statutory obligations.
- 3.4 Although the Council is encouraged by Government to set ambitious targets and indicators, the Council is under no statutory requirement to do so.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.5 HECA responsibility has moved from the private sector housing team and currently sits within Environment and Planning, although there is some crossover of responsibility.

**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.6 Although the Green Deal and ECO will include all of our domestic and commercial business premises, the Council is specifically committed to improving home comfort and working with those who are currently or likely to be suffering from fuel poverty.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 4.1 None identified at this stage.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 - The draft HECA report.

**6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

DECC (July 2012) Guidance to English Energy Conservation Authorities issued pursuant to the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995.

**7. KEY**

N/A

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